

















Diane Owen Andrews

October 1923







# IRELAND

IN

## THE NINETEENTH CENTURY,

AND

### SEVENTH OF ENGLAND'S DOMINION;

ENRICHED WITH

COPIOUS DESCRIPTIONS OF THE RESOURCES  
OF THE SOIL,

AND

SEATS AND SCENERY OF THE NORTH WEST DISTRICT.

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BY A. ATKINSON, ESQ.

AUTHOR OF

"THE IRISH TOURIST," "IRELAND EXHIBITED TO ENGLAND,"  
ETC. ETC.

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"Concordiâ res parvæ crescunt—  
Discordiâ maximæ dilabuntur."—SALLUST.

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IRELAND

THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

SEVENTH OF ENGLAND'S DOMINION

SOME DESCRIPTIONS OF THE RESOURCES  
OF THE SOIL

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## TO THE ENGLISH PUBLIC.

THE Author of this Work refers with confidence to the free and UNPURCHASED terms of approbation, in which divers of the LIVERPOOL Journals (to whose proprietors and editors, ample specimens were submitted for inspection as they came from the press) have spoken of the importance to the English interests, of the varied contents of this impartial and independent volume, which we have now the honour of submitting to the serious consideration of the friends of British prosperity in both countries.

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# I R E L A N D .

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## CHAPTER I.

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EMBRACING a concise but important review of the numerous and complex causes, political, ecclesiastical, and commercial, by which Ireland has been impoverished, divided, demoralized, and laid waste—together with the legislative measures that should be adopted for securing the rights of British connexion to that country without a dissolution of the Act of Union. As also, the reports of Mr. Dalton, an Irish Antiquary, and those of the National Trades' Union, "on the rise, progress, and decline of trade in Ireland," embracing a period of parliamentary history in relation to that country of nearly six centuries.

WHATEVER has a tendency to produce a spirit of enquiry in England, concerning the resources of Ireland, and the political and ecclesiastical impediments to its improvement, must prove useful to both countries; since experience proves that, up to this hour, England has not availed herself of the fruits of her conquest; has not profited in a due proportion by the great natural riches of the Sister country; has not made Ireland (no, not even by her legislative union) one country with herself; has not effected a sound moral amalgamation of the two countries, by all her laws; has been compelled, by the effects of her own ignorant or wicked policy, to govern Ireland in the 19th century, and the 7th of her own nominal dominion, by laws so ridiculously defective, that in several districts of Ireland (witness those of Clare, Galway, and Roscommon) there was no adequate security for life and property, so recently as in the year 1831; no permanent relief from ecclesiastical imposts that

have oppressed and convulsed that country for several ages; no security for the religious and moral influence of the Established Church, against that contempt and hatred of its wealthy clergy, which the *basely ignorant* framers and maintainers of the law of tithe, so effectually created and transferred to the Church itself; no legislative enactments to provide employment for the poor, and to shield them from the unjust exactions of their domestic oppressors; no provision for the myriads of families that have been thrown out of employment by the Act of Union, by the absentee system (and the consequent drain of native income) which that act produced;\* no remedy for

\* As a letter to the king on the subject of the Legislative Union between Great Britain and Ireland, will be found in a succeeding part of this work, we shall make no farther advertence to it in this note, than merely to say (and this we do for the sake of those weak but well-minded Englishmen who apprehend dangerous results from an abolition of that Act) that the best conceivable substitute for its repeal would be, an appointment, by the crown and imperial parliament, of a standing committee of the two houses of legislature, composed of all the Irish lords and commoners for the time being, to sit in Dublin for a short period every summer during the recess, to compose bills (subject of course to the royal assent) for the improvement of Ireland, and the employment of her people.† This would probably be the best and most available substitute for a repeal of the Act of Union that human wisdom could devise, as it would combine with all the useful and lawful purposes of that Act, the most effectual *secondary* means of regenerating Ireland, and retaining her as a willing captive in the bosom of the British union. It would also have this additional recommendation, that it would enable the imperial parliament to devote a much larger portion of its time to the consideration of other subjects, than when heavily encumbered, as hitherto, with Irish affairs. And inasmuch as these committees would be charged with the exercise of a delegated power, (strictly confined to the internal improvement of their own country) and for every abuse of which they were liable to impeachment by the imperial parliament from which they derived their authority—inasmuch, we say, as this legitimate mode of improving Ireland, by the natural (though hitherto, in many instances, *treacherous*) guardians of her welfare, would have a powerful tendency to preserve the unity and integrity of the empire, and to bury the question of repeal in the sea of oblivion; and to all its other benefits would unite the important additional grace of compelling its lazy lords to spend a little of their time and money in their own country; we think they are no friends of England who will treat this question with contempt.

† A committee composed of equal proportions of English, Irish, and Scotch members, would be still better; as these would be likely to do, what Irish senators in their legislative capacity never did—JUSTICE to an injured and disordered peasantry.

an English monopoly of all our manufacturing interests, which it contributed to produce also; nor for the subletting act, which (whether right or wrong) threw many hundreds of labouring families adrift upon the world. And lastly, no laws to protect the hundreds of thousands of mendicants that were thus created, from the painful alternative of becoming robbers and rebels to the laws, or of covering the whole face of the country (as swarms of locusts are said to have covered the land of Egypt) in the character of suppliant beggars in pursuit of food!—Under such circumstances it is not therefore surprising, that in certain districts of Ireland the laws of England are trampled under foot, the most sacred ties of humanity disregarded, and the value of property so completely deteriorated, that (in the absence of a strong military protection) a man of sense would not give sixpence for the fee simple of a good estate, if his residence upon the property to be purchased were made a *sine qua non* of the title proposed to be conveyed to him! In a word, that Ireland up to this day is a drag upon the wheel of England, instead of being what she ought to be, a powerful contributor to her treasury, and the main pillar of her strength by sea and land.\*

\* Some of the causes by which this unfortunate country has been deprived of the means of existence, her character demoralized, and her capital and energies forced into foreign lands, being plainly and strongly exhibited in the first report of a committee of that called “The National Trades’ Union,” held in Dublin, on “the rise, progress, and decline of trade, commerce, and manufactures in Ireland,” we shall give the substance of that report in the following extracts from it; and as much light has been shed upon the same subject, by a Mr. Dalton, an Irish antiquarian (in a letter addressed by him to the editor of a Dublin paper), we shall append the substance of his letter to the aforesaid extracts, as we think these united communications, in connexion with the other important facts which this work contains, will enable every honest Englishman who lays his hand upon this book, to trace, with ease and accuracy, the complicated misfortunes of Ireland to the primitive causes which produced them; and as the facts of English and Irish history contained in these communications, shed considerable light upon the state of trade and manufactures in the sister countries, at a very early period of their connexion, the English commercial reader will probably feel a peculiar interest in the perusal of this note,



In such a state of affairs as this, every work which has a tendency to call the attention of England to the causes by which these effects have been produced and perpetuated, must prove useful; and therefore, although in reference to

which forms with us an additional motive for annexing it to our own facts and reflections upon the state of Ireland.

*Extracts from the Report of the Committee.*

“Your Committee have commenced a very laborious and minute enquiry, into the rise, progress, and decline of trade, commerce, and manufactures in Ireland: feeling deeply the necessity and importance of such an investigation in the present deplorable state of our trade.

“It appears to your committee, that so far back as the year 1357, the serges manufactured in Ireland were esteemed and encouraged in many nations in Europe, particularly in Italy and Germany. It also appears, that annual fairs were for several succeeding centuries held at Kilmainham, (in the neighbourhood of Dublin) and which extended from thence to Thomas-street, (in the city) at which fairs, frizes, stuffs, and serges, the manufacture of Ireland, were sold not only to home purchasers, but to merchants from all parts of Europe, who attended here to purchase, in like manner as at the Leipsic fair in our own times; whereby a considerable revenue was drawn from foreign countries and spent in Ireland. This great and important fair, under English jealousy and misrule, has long since totally ceased!

“It also appears to your committee, that in the reign of Elizabeth, a considerable export of cattle took place from this country to England, and which export trade, so far from being a drain of the resources of Ireland, *as at present*, and going into the pockets of heartless and unfeeling absentees, was then a considerable advantage to this country, the landlords being all residents, and spending their rents (which their tenantry were by such exports enabled regularly to pay) in the country, thereby benefiting the nation at large, and their own neighbourhood in particular, and rendering pauperism and want almost unknown in Ireland at that period; but this trade tended too much to the good and prosperity of Ireland, according to the opinion of our English rulers; wherefore by the 8th of Elizabeth, chap. 3, the export of cattle from Ireland to England was totally prohibited! The consequence was, that the Irish nation paid more particular attention to the increase of their sheep, in order to export and manufacture their wool, which succeeded to such an extent in the succeeding reigns of James and Charles, that it next excited the jealousy of England, lest the Irish woollen manufacture should beat the English out of the foreign market. This appears from a letter of Lord Strafford, while Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, to Charles I., dated 25th July, 1636, wherein he says, ‘there is a beginning here towards a clothing trade, which I had, and so should still discourage (unless otherwise directed), in regard it would trench not only on the clothings of England, (being our staple commodity) so as if they should manufacture

the treasures of the soil we have little that is new to offer, yet, as that little will be accompanied with facts of history, calculated to shed considerable light upon the vicious and hostile elements of society in Ireland, we do not fear but

their own wool, which grows to very great quantity, we should not only lose the profits we made now by indrapering their wools, but his majesty lose his customs, and in continuance it might be found that they might beat us out of the trade itself, by underselling us, which they are able to do. Yet I have endeavoured another way to set them at work, the rather in regard the women are *naturally* bred to spinning, and that Irish earth is apt for the bearing of flax, so I trust to make them to follow it when they see great profit arising thereby; and that they shall generally take and employ themselves that way, which, if they do, I am confident will prove a mighty business.'

"On this letter your committee shall only remark, that Providence inflicted a just and well merited punishment, both on the treacherous writer and his more treacherous master, who could so calmly contemplate, for the aggrandisement of another country, the ruin of the staple trade of a brave and industrious people. Both terminated their mortal career upon a disgraceful and ignominious scaffold."

"Notwithstanding all the treacherous efforts that were made to divert the attention and capital of Ireland from the woollen to the linen trade, the exports of woollens to foreign countries from Ireland, still exceeded the expectations of England; and to prevent its continuance, an Act was passed, the 14th and 15th of Charles II., whereby an export duty of £3 6s. 8d. was laid on each piece of broad cloth containing thirty-six yards, and fifteen shillings on each piece of stuff and kersey. And in the reign of William III. a duty of four shillings in the pound value on all broad cloths exported, being the manufacture of Ireland, and two shillings in the pound on all kerses and stuffs; and thus Ireland was totally cut off from all foreign trade. These cruel prohibitions were passed in the days of her meekness and humiliation, but, as must be now apparent to every candid and thinking man, with more than Russian despotism and injustice.

"The unwise, unjust, and paltry jealousy of England, appears amply from the foregoing; \* but to put the matter beyond doubt, your committee state one undeniable fact, whereby that jealousy is unblushingly acknowledged by the higher governing power of England, for in the address of the House of Lords to King William III., they openly complain of the increase of the

\* Paltry jealousy indeed, and, strictly speaking, as impolitic as paltry; since, not to fetter the natural energies and resources of any branch of a dominion, but rather to encourage a full and vigorous development of these in every part, (each having its peculiar natural advantages) is not only the more generous and liberal policy, but in the end, must, obviously, contribute a larger aggregate amount to the wealth and power of the state. What would we think in these days of the wretched minion, who, to preserve the trade of London, would stand in his place in parliament, and say, that Liverpool and her commerce should be destroyed!—ED. NOTE.

this tour of observation and research, so far as it shall come under the eye of honest and impartial Englishmen, will contribute, with larger and more useful works, to direct their

woollen manufacture in Ireland, 'which,' they say, 'made his majesty's loyal subjects very apprehensive that the further growth of it might greatly prejudice the said manufacture in England, by which the trade of the nation and the value of land would very much decrease, and the number of people lessened; they, therefore, besought his majesty to declare to all his subjects in Ireland, that the growth and increase of the woollen manufacture, had long and would ever be looked upon with jealousy by all his subjects of England, but to recommend them to turn their attention to the linen trade.' The Commons, in still stronger terms, 'implored his majesty to make it his royal care to *hinder* the exportation of wool from Ireland, and discourage the woollen manufacture and encourage the linen'—to which his majesty gave a most implicit answer, saying, 'I shall do all that in me lies to discourage the woollen trade in Ireland, and encourage the linen, and promote the trade of England.' The royal promise was carried into full effect, the result of which is felt at this day.

"Another strong proof of the ruinous treatment extended to the manufactures of Ireland, appears in the speech of Mr. Pitt, the prime minister of England, made in the British House of Commons, on the 21st of January, 1800, where he says, "I will admit that for an hundred years this country (England) followed a very narrow policy with regard to Ireland. It manifested a very absurd jealousy concerning the growth, produce, and manufacture of several articles;" but what cure does he propose for all this jealousy and injustice? He says, "that all this jealousy will be buried by the plan of the Union, which is now to be brought before you!" Alas! this measure, so highly praised by its base proposers, proved, instead of a benefit, the grave of Ireland's trade and manufactures.

"Your committee think it unnecessary to enter more fully into a detail of the legal enactments and documents, proving the evil policy and legislation of England. They conceive they have shewn to demonstration the jealous and unfeeling conduct pursued for ages, in regard of the legitimate and staple manufacture of Ireland; and that instead of fostering care and protection, the Irish woollen manufacture received from the government of England nothing but discouragement and prohibition.

"In the glorious year of 1782, and for several years afterwards, the woollen manufactures of Ireland made rapid strides towards prosperity, under the fostering care of a patriotic and liberal resident gentry, and the blessings of a domestic legislature. The city of Dublin was filled with industrious, well-fed, well-clothed operatives, and health and competence were enjoyed by thousands of persons connected with the woollen manufacture. The Liberty, formerly the principal residence of the master woollen manufacturers, is now a desert waste, filled with wretchedness, poverty, and filth—where the cheering sound of the shuttle is no longer heard, and where



attention to the policy by which that fine fertile country has been more than half lost to the British empire; and, by an easy transition of the mind, to those better and happier

houses, which at that period would bring £60, or even £80 a year, are now let at £20, or £10, and some even so low as £5 a year!

“A similar decline in the woollen trade has taken place in the country parts of Ireland. The flannel manufacture of Wicklow, formerly a most important branch of trade, both for the home and foreign market, is now nearly annihilated; and the flannel-hall of Rathdrum, which some years since was crowded with the industrious manufacturers of that useful article, is now converted into a school-house.

“In Carrick-on-Suir, once a most important manufacturing town of coarse woollen cloths, and what is commonly called “Carrick ratteen,” having 500 looms in full work, there is not at present, as your committee have been informed, 40 looms at work. In Kilkenny, the blanket and cloth trades have been reduced from great prosperity to the lowest ebb. In Cork, and every other place in Ireland where the woollen manufacture formerly flourished, a depression in a similar ratio with Dublin has taken place.

“Your committee, from the lamentable falling off in this important branch of the manufactures of Ireland, have been naturally led to investigate the cause of such deplorable results, and they are of opinion that the principal causes are; First—the cessation of the protecting duty of 8½d. a yard on ‘old drapery’ imported into Ireland; which was enacted in 1799, and continued for twenty years by the act of union, which enacted, ‘that old and new drapery should pay on importation into either country, the duties then payable on importation in Ireland.’ This duty, though small and inadequate to the protection of the higher priced cloths, yet afforded a considerable protection to the low priced cloths, and the other woollen manufactures of this country; but in violation of the promises made at the time of the union, as hereafter stated, this duty was suddenly taken off in the year 1821, and the Irish market thereby opened to the English manufacturer, who was then in possession of his own immense home trade, and a foreign woollen trade extending throughout Europe, and almost to every country in the world.

“Secondly—The loss of above £100,000 a year, formerly expended in Ireland on the army clothing department, which is now laid out in England, it appearing to your committee that from 1782 to 1800, the entire of the Irish militia, and several of the regiments of the line quartered in Ireland, were supplied by native manufacturers with Irish woollens. One house in the Liberty had at one period the supply of twenty regiments, which business has now totally ceased.

“Thirdly, and above all—The unjust and infamous act of union, which has deprived Ireland of her domestic legislature and her resident gentry, and consequently of her capital.

“Many and specious were the promises held out when that detestable act

days, when the murky gloom and withering blight of civil

of Ireland's ruin was about to be accomplished. It is quite needless to say, not one of these promises was ever fulfilled. Lord Castlereagh, of execrated memory, the prime mover of that fell act, and then the organ of the British government, in proposing that measure in the Irish parliament, and alluding to what he stated to be protecting duties on the several articles enumerated in the schedule No. 2, of the Act of Union, thus expresses himself. 'I wish them to continue for such a period of years as will give security to the speculations of the manufacturers. At the same time I wish to look forward to a period when articles of this kind may gradually be discontinued, and ultimately cease. It must be evident that if our manufactures keep pace in advancement for the next twenty years, with the progress they have made in the last twenty years, then that they may, at the expiration of it, be fully able to cope with the British\*—and that the two countries may be safely left, *like any two counties of the same kingdom*, to a free competition! It is therefore provided that after twenty years the United Parliament may diminish the duties of protection in such a ratio as the situation of our manufactures at that period may render expedient.'

"Here, then, was a distinct, and unequivocal understanding, that the protecting duties should be merely diminished in proportion as a fair competition between the two countries would permit—taking it all the while for granted that Ireland would continue to improve in a ratio at least equal to her advancement during the preceding twenty years, which comprised the most glorious period of Ireland's liberty since she had come under the English yoke; but notwithstanding her evident and rapid depression (for the absentee system, draining the country of its life blood soon commenced), in open and shameless violation of this solemn pledge, and of every principle of justice, the protecting duties were entirely struck off '*at one fell swoop*.' This was the finishing blow to Ireland's manufactures; the result was soon felt with appalling effect, as will appear fully by the following return of the persons employed in the woollen manufacture (not including the manufacture of stuffs, hosiery, or carpets, which will form the subject of another

\* Did this Statesman know, when he was preaching this fudge to the Irish house of Commons, that Ireland had been deprived of her foreign trade and connections for a century or two previous to his speech, by the prohibitory impositions heaped upon her manufactures in the preceding reigns? (as alluded to by Mr. Pitt, and quoted from the acts of parliament in the report which we are copying.) If he did, he must have been practising a gross *deception* upon the Irish house: for nothing can be more obvious than that Ireland, thus deprived of her foreign trade and connections, for a long period of years, could not maintain a competition with England at the end of his twenty years, under any circumstances of temporary protection. England having thrust our woollen trade out of the foreign markets, and not only possessed herself of all the advantages Ireland formerly enjoyed, but of many others, which the peculiar favour of government enabled her to acquire, to talk of competition with England, under such circumstances, was a pure humbug.—ED. NOTE.

and ecclesiastical oppression, having slunk convicted into report,) taken on an average between the periods of 1800, 1820, and the present time.

Average number of persons employed in each branch of the Woollen Manufacture (except Stuffs, Hosiery, and Carpets) from 1800 to 1820, with their weekly rate of wages.				Average number of persons at present employed, with the rate of wages now paid.			
Branches.	Numb.	Weekly Wages.	Weekly Amount.	Numb.	Weekly Wages.	Weekly Amount.	
		s. d.	£. s. d.		s. d.	£. s. d.	
Sorters .....	50	30 0	75 0 0	12	30 0	18 0 0	
Scourers .....	50	14 0	35 0 0	10	9 0	4 10 0	
Slubbers .....	200	30 0	300 0 0	40	15 0	30 0 0	
Spinners .....	600	25 0	750 0 0	60	15 0	45 0 0	
Feeders & Piecers	700	5 0	175 0 0	140	5 0	35 0 0	
Warpers .....	200	7 0	70 0 0	25	5 0	6 5 0	
Sizers .....	100	14 0	70 0 0	25	10 0	12 10 0	
Weavers .....	1000	25 0	1250 0 0	300	15 0	225 0 0	
Millers .....	75	16 0	60 0 0	20	10 0	10 0 0	
Shearers and } Knappers }	150	25 0	187 10 0	20	12 6	12 10 0	
Rowers .....	150	20 0	150 0 0	20	12 0	12 0 0	
Tenterers .....	50	16 0	40 0 0	5	10 0	2 10 0	
Dyers .....	25	24 0	30 0 0	5	20 0	5 0 0	
Winders .....	500	5 0	125 0 0	None.	None.		
Burlers .....	75	7 0	26 5 0	15	5 0	3 15 0	
Millwrights ....	20	30 0	30 0 0	4	26 0	5 4 0	
Carpenters .....	20	30 0	30 0 0	4	26 0	5 4 0	
Nailers .....	20	20 0	20 0 0	4	10 0	2 0 0	
Reedmakers ....	10	30 0	15 0 0	2	20 0	2 0 0	
Smiths .....	20	30 0	30 0 0	4	25 0	5 0 0	
Labourers .....	4015		£3468 15 0	715		£441 8 0	
	60		31 5 0	15		7 10 0	
Total in Dublin..	4075		£3500 0 0	730		£448 18 0	
Total in Coun- try Towns, averaged at about half as many more..	6075		£5250 0 0	1095		£672 0 0	
	10150		£8750 0 0	1825		£1120 18 0	

In 1800 there were 90 Woollen Manufacturers in Dublin.

In 1815       "       80       do.

In 1821       "       80       do.

In 1832   only   20!!!   do.

If Ireland were to supply her own population with Woollen Manufactures, there would be 3,000,000 persons wearing cloths, at an average of 30s. per annum .....£4,500,000

Deduct one-half for the raw materials, &c. .... 2,250,000

And the remainder would distribute no less a sum annually in Ireland than .....£2,250,000



the dark and infernal chambers of their birth, a new era shall commence, when Ireland, bursting through the gloom of ages, shall be called by the sun of justice to take her station in the heavens of political christianity, among those

“ One consequence of this policy has been, that since the protecting duties were removed, several thousand persons, who were engaged in the woollen manufacture, were obliged, in order to save themselves from actual starvation, to emigrate to America, where factories are by their skill now established, which may yet compete with England herself.\*

“ To such an alarming extent had the poverty and wretchedness of the woollen operatives reached, that a public meeting was convened by the Lord Mayor, in 1829, to consider the most prompt means for their relief. It then appeared that, in 1821, 1027 operatives connected with the woollen and stuff manufactures had been suddenly thrown out of employment, although a sum of £195,000 had been sunk in buildings and machinery, and totally lost to the proprietors; and that hundreds of these operatives, whose wages formerly amounted to £1 5s. per week, were then (in 1829) breaking stones on the highways!”

The same tragedy of *relief* (for it ended as a tragedy) was acted in Dublin, professedly for the benefit of many thousands of operatives that were thrown out of employment, in the year 1826, in consequence of the manufacturers not being able to effect a profitable sale of their goods on hand; but although divers public funds existed, which, if given as a premium to the employers, would have enabled them to sell their stock on hand at a losing price, and by this means to have resumed their trade and restored their workmen to their accustomed employments, yet none of these funds would be applied by their trustess to this use. With one sum, of twelve or fourteen thousand pounds, which had lain dormant for seven years, they built a bridge, rather than apply it to the support of Irish trade. How they disposed of other and similar sums, (among the rest, a large remaining surplus of the English charity of 1822) lying dormant also, we have not since learned. Suffice it

\* This reminds us of the persecutions of the French Hugonots, which produced the settlement of many colonies of French Manufacturers in other countries. It is time for the jealousy of England towards the countries of her own dominion to give way. In her free trade system she has acted with prodigal liberality to independent states, which profited by her folly, but refused to follow her example. Would not this liberality have proved more useful to her, had it been extended to Ireland, and other countries with which she is closely connected? This indeed would have been the true free trade system, as the energies and resources of every country, enjoying an equality of protection, would have been exerted in a useful and honourable competition to excel. This competition would prove equally serviceable to the state and to her members, whose interests are one and indivisible; but hitherto England appears to have acted upon a narrow and selfish policy, and the consequence has been that she has lost America, beggared Ireland, and forced thousands of her manufacturers and artisans to emigrate to foreign states!—ED. NOTE.

brighter luminaries of the west, which have been purged by the finger of a special Providence from those impurities which disgrace Europe, and from which England herself, notwithstanding her baptism in the font of two revolutions, is not yet purified.

to say, that the English interest prevailed in the Dublin councils. The weavers, unused to such labour and unfit for it, were sent to break stones in the streets, or in the vicinity of the city, notwithstanding the citizens were paying the paving corporation for the execution of that work. The money distinctly subscribed for the relief of the weavers at that time (about 12 or £13,000) was appropriated to their daily payment for the execution of that work, first, at the rate of one shilling per day, secondly, at the rate of six-pence, and lastly, at so low a rate as that of four-pence per day: the consequence may be easily anticipated; a dangerous endemic disease, the obvious result of famine and inanition, spread through the liberties of the city, and extended to the streets in their vicinity: the hospitals were filled; an extensive coach-house in Kevin-street, and we believe other buildings also, were fitted up to supply their lack of service; and hundreds of these unfortunate tradesmen and their families, sunk, as we heard, under the pressure of a disease produced (as the doctors of that day acknowledged) by famine, nakedness, and inanition, and were interred under cover of the night in the hospital fields at Kilmainham, in the neighbourhood of Dublin.

We have added, from our own knowledge, the last paragraph to our extracts from the report of the Trades' Committee; and shall now proceed to those parts of Mr. Dalton's letter which throw some light upon the nature of the trade of Ireland from the year 1250 to that of 1808, (a lapse of nearly six centuries,) where his facts and reflections upon that trade, and upon the policy of England in reference to it, terminate.

"1250. There is a very remarkable notice on record of a wager of battle awarded, and a combat thereupon fought, concerning a coat of "Irish cloth."

"The Flemings were, however, at this period, and for nearly a century afterwards, the great manufacturers of wool, until the policy of Edward III. first shook their monopoly. By an act of the 12th of his reign, he not only prohibited the exportation of the raw material (wool,) but he also proclaimed privileges to all foreign clothiers who would settle in his dominions, and by every other attainable mode fostered the advance of this manufacture.

"1358. By an act of the same monarch's reign the staple of wools in Ireland was established at Dublin, Waterford, Cork, and Drogheda, which led to that excellence of the Irish serges, referred to by the report (of the committee) to the year 1357, and the subsequent establishment of annual fairs, which were held in the space of ground between James's-gate and Kilmainham." (The committee's report makes the former boundary to have been Thomas street, which forms a junction with James-street at the west or south-west side of the city; the difference, however, between these accounts

Having thus proceeded straight forward to the end and object of this work, we shall make no apology for that simplicity of style which best suits the gravity of our subject; but leaving to other writers those meretricious orna-

is not very material; but with the exception of the Acts of Parliament quoted, neither mentions the historical authorities from which the report was taken.)

“1376. It is remarkable that the last statute of the aforesaid Edward’s reign has special regard to the woollens of Ireland—enacting that no subsidy or alnage duty shall be paid on cloths called frize-ware, whether made in Ireland or in England, of Irish wool, because these cloths did not contain the prescribed length or breadth.

“1463. It was enacted, that no cloth of any other region but Wales and Ireland, should be imported into England. From the recital of this statute it appears, that sundry deceits and abuses were about that time practised in making cloths in England, by which the nation sustained much discredit beyond sea.

“1482. A licence was granted to the pope’s agent to export into Italy certain commodities custom free, amongst which we find the following articles of Irish woollen, viz.: five mantles of Irish cloth, one lined with green, one russet garment, lined with Irish cloth, &c.

“1521. In this year the first legislative provision was made to prohibit the exportation of wool from Ireland. It was, however, by no means intended to operate to the prejudice of this country, which the preamble to the act strikingly testifies—“Whereas the taking and lading of wool and flocks out of this land” (it is an Irish statute) “hath been the cause of the dearth of cloth, and idleness of many folks, so that in default of labour and occupation of the same, divers persons, both men and women, have fallen to theft and other *misgovernment*, to the desolation and ruin of this poor land.”

“1569. Queen Elizabeth adopted her father’s policy as to our woollen manufacture, and by an Irish act of this year, the exportation of wool was yet further prohibited, by having duties made chargeable on all shipped from Ireland, ‘in order,’ as the preamble yet more explicitly declares, ‘the better to increase the Queen’s revenues, and that said commodity might be more abundantly wrought within the realm of Ireland, and English artificers be allured, by the abundance of material, to come and work it here.’ This act was confirmed by one of the 13th of Elizabeth, c. 2.

“1622. These statutable regulations worked their service, as is evidenced by the short sighted jealousy of the English clothiers of this period. A committee was in this year appointed, under the great seal of England, to advise, amongst other matters, how the exportation of wools and woollens into Ireland might be prevented (the cloth manufactory of Ireland must necessarily have then been very extensive,) and how the wools in Ireland, not dressed for use or merchandise, might most commodiously be transported into Eng-



ments which are culled from the flowers of poetry and the fields of fiction, for purposes of artificial excitement, we shall content ourselves, in this introductory chapter, with the labour of collecting facts; and that these facts may be

land, bought at reasonable prices, and employed. English committees, however, must necessarily have an inexperience in Irish affairs, which a few partially selected witnesses, attending on honorary summonses, are but ill calculated to instruct. The natural operation of such a course was, nevertheless, in this instance, innocent of evil to Ireland, as appears from a speech of Lord Clarendon, delivered in 1630. 'Ireland,' says he, 'which had been a sponge to draw and a gulph to swallow all that could be got from England, has been reduced to that degree of husbandry and government, that it not only subsisted of itself, and gave England all that might be expected from it, but really increased the revenue £40,000 or £50,000 per annum, besides a considerable advantage to the people by the traffic and trade thence.'

"1637. Neither was the letter of Lord Strafford in this year, to which the trades' committee has alluded, followed by any statutable smothering of our (then) staple manufacture.

1647. It appears from 'Whitelock's memorial,' that an ordinance was in this year sent up to the Lords, to prohibit the transportation of wool, and of fullers' earth, and of Irish wool.

"1652. In consequence of 'the spoiling of Ireland' at this time, (such is the technical term applied to Cromwell's career of slaughter, confiscation and persecution,) great quantities of wool were imported from France to England; so great indeed was the scarcity thus induced, that by a vote of the English parliament all the wools brought into that country were to be exempted from any duty.

"1663. In this year the really effective act was passed, to prevent the exportation of *fat* cattle from Ireland to England, (a jealous policy, alluded to in the report of the national trades' committee) and that but worked injury to those who imposed it.

"1665. The parliament at Oxford carried their antipathy still farther, and voted the importation of any cattle from Ireland, fat or lean, dead or alive, a *nuisance*.\* On their bill being sent up to the Lords, it was debated with great heat; the Duke of Buckingham haughtily declared that 'none could oppose it but such as had Irish estates or Irish understandings'—an observation which produced a challenge from the Earl of Ossory, which was met, as might be conjectured, by the Duke's complaining to the house, and Ossory's consequent imprisonment in the tower. The Chancellor of the

\* It is not very surprising that England felt (and perhaps still feels) a considerable degree of antipathy to the Irish, they found it so very hard to conquer these wild dogs, and to take their country and their trade from them. Indeed it is not natural that we should like those people who gave us a great deal of trouble in doing business. This may perhaps account for the pettishness of the Oxford parliament.—ED. NOTE.

arrived at by the shortest and simplest course, and make the deepest possible impression upon the memory of the reader, we shall conclude the introduction that we have thus begun, in the familiar form of a dialogue between the English Reader and the Author.

day, on the other hand, commenting on the word '*nuisance*,' insisted that the Commons might as well have termed the traffic '*adultery*;' and the upper house sent it down only for the alteration of this word; the Commons, however, remained inflexible, and their favourite word was impressed upon the statute book.

"The Irish nation thus suddenly deprived of the questionable privilege of the Phrygian king, of seeing every thing turned to gold *upon which they should have fed*, harboured, nevertheless, so little ill will towards those who would have persecuted them, that they voted in the following year a contribution of 30,000 beeves, the only riches the country at that time possessed, for the relief of the sufferers by the fire of London. They were, however, obliged to begin the world again; and though the act has by many been construed grievous in its effects, I would rather maintain that it served the country, and brought destruction to the trade of England; first, by preventing the exportation of young cattle, and thus improving the Irish trade in butter, tallow and hides; secondly, by ultimately inducing the beef trade, of which we had so long an exclusive possession; and thirdly, by recalling the attention of the Irish farmers to the breeding of sheep, which had been neglected since the great rebellion. Nor were they the only persons so stimulated; various English clothiers, induced by the cheapness of wool, and of the necessities of life, settled with their families in Ireland, and erected a manufactory in Dublin; others repaired from Holland to Limerick. Succeeding families settled in Cork and Kinsale. Some French artizans next resorted to Waterford, and made drugget there; and at a yet later period, some merchants of London established another manufactory at Clonmel. Industry again appeared to guide the peasantry (as it ever will most effectually) to civilization; the revenue of the country not only increased, but it was raised from a willing and a comparatively comfortable people.

"1677. About this time an ungenerous and miscalculating policy did certainly evince itself in the manner reported by the committee, to the discouragement of the woollen manufacture in Ireland. It was ungenerous, I repeat, as it would seek to enrich one portion of a nation by the calamities of another; but yet more, it was miscalculating, as I maintain that England has herself felt to this day an unexpected result of injuries to herself by the measure. It was considered that by suffering the continuance of the woollen manufacture in Ireland, that country would be liable to send serges, baizes, &c. to Holland, Flanders, Spain, Portugal, &c., and that thereby the English manufacturers would have less profit; but although it is true that the greater quantities of cloths would certainly have gone out of both islands to the foreign markets, and the individual profit would have been consequently abated,

## DIALOGUE.

English Reader. May I take the liberty of asking, what end do you propose to yourself by the publication of this tour?

Author. To lead as many of the people of your country as yet the consumption would thereon be wonderfully increased, as is generally the case where an article of this nature is cheap and plentiful. Again, it was supposed that all the woollen manufacture that was checked in Ireland, would then be necessarily carried on in England. This conclusion was equally erroneous; Ireland excelled in particular stuffs, which she was enabled to make and sell in a state and at prices that England never could arrive at in the foreign markets; the consequence was, that the latter country, which, in conjunction with Ireland, would have disheartened other nations from attempting this staple commodity, was ultimately undersold by the industry of foreign nations, who then found they could excel and undersell her in their own emporia. Nor was this all the evil consequence even to England. It was her real interest to have encouraged the increase of riches in Ireland, not only as the latter country would then have been enabled to contribute more to its own support, and been the less charge to the English revenue; but as, in point of fact, almost the whole of her money found its way into English coffers. To what a state, however, did this superadded lash of policy reduce our poor country. Her cattle were no longer to be exported—her woollen manufacture was prohibited—heavy impositions were laid on her tallow, her leather, and her corn—the tonnage and poundage were doubled on her linen! In fact, she could hardly export materials for the English manufacturer, as wool, flax, skins, hides, rape-seed, &c. and while even that little trade was carried on in English ships, she herself was supplied with almost every commodity from England, and her estates were mortgaged at 10 per cent to Englishmen. A pamphlet of the day states, that there were in 1697-8, in the city and suburbs of Dublin alone, 12,000 families, and throughout the nation 50,000, who were bred to trades connected with the manufacture of wool, and “who could no more get their bread in the linen manufacture, than a London tailor could by shoe-making.”

“1791. By an act of this year, the exportation of woollen cloths from Ireland, except from certain ports to certain ports of England, was wholly prohibited.

“1702. Sir Richard Cox was summoned to England to advise Her Majesty, amongst other matters, as to which manufacture, linen or woollen, it would be most the interest of England to encourage in Ireland; when he delivered his opinion, “that it was the interest of England to encourage the woollen manufacture in Ireland, in its coarse branches, as this would prevent the wool being carried to French manufacturers, and would not interfere with the manufacture of England; and that he thought it the most impolitic step ever taken by England, to prohibit the whole exportation of



shall read this book, (and particularly those of the commercial interest to which you belong) to think justly concerning Ireland, by becoming accurately acquainted with its real history.

E. R. A good and necessary end ; but is a tour through a few counties (replete, as we may suppose, with travelling incidents, as tours usually are) the proper sort of publication for enlightening the people of England upon the state of your country ?

A. The sort of tour of which you speak, (and some such have been published by men of *your country*, who knew Ireland *only* through the casualties of stage-coach and posting excursions !) is perhaps better calculated to mislead than to enlighten England, upon the complex causes by which Ireland has been made a proverb to the world ; and therefore it shall be my aim, in the composition of this book, to attach to the specimens of the counties which I visited in 1830, such views of the political and moral

woollen manufacture from Ireland.” Lord Godolphin, however, overruled his arguments, by the *impossibility* of contending with the prejudices of the British people !

“The fatal consequences of the act of William soon manifested themselves. The poor of Ireland became destitute of support ; families before comfortable were reduced to beggary, and all of the manufacturing class that had any capital *fled to the continent* ; and as the Flemings had heretofore done, when persecuted by the Duke of Alva, so these too contributed to the extension of the wool trade in every land of their exile. The looms of Montdidre, Abbeville, Turcoin, Tournay, Leyden, &c. were fed with Irish wool, and, to a certain extent, worked by Irish artizans. Lisle alone is said to have found employment for a thousand looms. Another necessary consequence of the prohibition was a contraband traffic of the wool thus injuriously carried to be worked abroad. About the year 1704, a Mr. Rothe, of Youghal, brought 13 ships laden with Irish wool into Nantz ; and in 1705, several Irishmen, who were taken by Sir George Byng in a French man-of-war, confessed, on examination, a constant trade and practice of exporting wool to France. This evasion became so open, that in 1720 several petitions were sent up, complaining of it to the English Parliament.” These extracts will assist to shew the nature of the policy by which Ireland has been governed by England, since she came under the control and direction of that country. — Of the effects we need say nothing—they are written in legible characters of decay upon the face of the whole island.

state of Ireland generally, as may lead the reader to think seriously of the means by which the leaven of the old system of law and government may be safely exuded; the healthful principle of moral life resuscitated and brought into action; the people made prosperous and happy by profitable employment and wise institutions of charity; the laws respected for their justice and equity; the government for its wisdom and vigor; and the wealth and power of the state promoted, by a faithful development of the resources of the country, through a local parliament, (or a competent substitute for it) established upon the soil of Ireland for that special purpose.

E. R. I beg pardon for interrupting you; these are certainly important objects, but would not a statistical and geological report of the counties through which you travelled in 1830, prove more eminently calculated to draw the attention of England to the great commercial capabilities of your country, than a political tour, or even a commercial survey, resting upon partial observation, and the information of certain inhabitants, upon the accuracy of whose reports you could by no means place implicit reliance?

A. No man can feel more sensibly than I do the force of your last observations, which bear no just relation, however, to those important sections of the work that treat on the political and moral state of Ireland; and for which the author was, happily, quite independent of those imperfect sources of information to which you have shrewdly alluded. The more deeply and severely these sections of the work shall be scrutinized, the more important to the future interests of England they will appear; and in relation to the geological and statistical developments of which you speak; of these and other works of public utility, it may be justly said, that the labourer's power of doing good is limited by the *means* which he possesses; and that my means in these departments of research were so extremely circumscribed, that I found it physically impossible to accomplish, even the limited measure of good that I had contemplated when

I entered upon this tour. A statistical and geological survey of the counties which I visited in 1830, would require a course of time, and a union of funds and talents, which I could not personally command. It was a debt due by the lords of the soil to their own properties, and might have been executed by mining engineers and other men of science, under their direction, at an expense of trifling consequence to them; but though trifling to the rank and property of a large district of country, still of such magnitude in its aggregate amount, as would render it totally impossible for any individual of limited resources to achieve it; and hence, having no geological map of those counties to consult, and thrown, by the absence of this desideratum, upon my own slender talents and limited exertions for a collection of the elements of their future wealth, I found the task too gigantic for my feeble grasp, and was compelled to rest contented with the humble office of a precursor to some greater power, to whose authority and resources the natural history of the country could be made to bow. The few fragments, however, of their natural wealth (combined with many distinguished specimens of artificial improvement) which I have been able to collect, will, I trust, prove useful in awakening a spirit of enquiry into the deep and various resources of this interesting district; and therefore I shall proceed to collect and combine those fragments under their respective heads, when I have answered such farther questions as you may think proper to propose to me.

E. R. I am satisfied with the reasons you have given for your inability to gratify my wishes to the whole extent, on the great subject of your mineral wealth, and other materiæ which your country possesses for manufactures and commerce. I am aware that these can only be brought to bear upon the prosperity of a country, and upon the wealth of a state, under the protecting shade of liberal laws and a wise government; and I must confess that on the page of your living history, proofs of criminal negligence or corrupt principle are too plainly inscribed, to be misconstrued or trans-



ferred to inferior causes; but still, as on political subjects there will always be much difference of opinion, while on the sound policy of finding employment for the people by an improvement of their own native resources, all reasonable men are heartily agreed; hence I cannot but wish that such a strong and concise report of your statistical and geological resources had been executed, as would place before the eye of the English reader, pure from political infusions, and from all objects of minor interest, the cardinal features of your country's wealth. The maps and volumes hitherto published upon Ireland, have been too numerous; some of them have dwelt too much upon the minutiae of that country, and consequently have been too voluminous for commercial men. One compendium of the whole would supersede them, and that compendium is now much wanted. All men of science who have explored your country acknowledge, that in its soil and other natural resources, it is one of the richest countries in Europe, and has decided advantages over every other part of the British islands. It opens upon the atlantic ocean on the west, and thus commands an easy communication with the new world. On the east, the English channel, with the aid of a steam navigation, renders the English market accessible to its produce in a few hours. Its coast abounds with noble harbours, its valleys with spacious lakes, and its mountains with rapid rivers with numerous falls for mills. Its soil is fertile beyond that of most countries: it abounds with all sorts of minerals and fossils applicable to trade and domestic convenience. Its inhabitants are distinguished by their wit, genius, and personal bravery. Why then are they divided? Why is it that they do not coalesce and become one people? Why is so large a proportion of their peasantry reducible into three classes, the famished, the mendicant, and the criminal inhabitants of the land? Why are the artizans of your most populous cities destitute of employment, and perishing for want of bread? Why do more than half the population of your capital appear in the garb of the most abject beggars, and a

large proportion of its parishes exhibit the appearance of a spacious lazaretto? Something must be radically wrong in the whole state of society in your country; or the religion and laws by which that state of society is produced and perpetuated, must be lamentably vicious—point these out to me with the pen of a diamond; and if to the evils you will add the remedies, your book will be worth reading, although its statistical and geological information may be poor and slender, its style plain and unpolished, its tale of distress as artless as that of Parson Adams or Dr. Syntax, and its subject matter as curious and diversified, as that of “Robinson Crusoe,” or “The Adventures of a Guinea.”

A. On taking a cursory view of the task which you require me to execute (and in language that renders doubtful whether Heraclitus or Democritus shall bear away the palm of victory from Patience, bending serenely sorrowful over the *tomb* of a country that was once a nursery for heroes, and a school for kings,) it does not at first sight appear to be one of extreme difficulty; but on farther consideration, it is found to involve centuries of misrule and plunder, far beyond the limits of a pocket volume. To do justice to such a subject would force me back through many centuries, to the period of the English invasion, and to all the succeeding causes of the conflicting elements of society in Ireland. Besides, on these subjects there are various and hostile opinions; some regarding the Reformation (out of which the religious divisions of the country, and the plunder of the poor and the Roman Irish Church proceeded) as a great public curse; while others regard it as a great public blessing. I myself am convinced that the Reformation laid the foundations of religious liberty in Europe, and am of opinion that the conquest of Ireland by England (in putting an end to the feuds and divisions of its Kings, and uniting its petty principalities in one country, under one crown of sufficient power to protect it,) was a great and important advantage to the former country, notwithstanding all the evils which followed that conquest in its train; but then, I have not

forgotten, that I am descended from an English family, and am a protestant by birth and education; and consequently that my feelings are not exactly the same as those of a Roman Catholic born in the same country, although I can safely assert, that I have suffered persecutions and privations, in person, property, and liberty, to which I never saw a Roman Catholic subjected in Ireland under the influence of the penal laws; and hence, by my own experience, I was instructed to believe, that the recently abolished remnant of those laws, was no otherwise an instrument of punishment to Roman Catholics, than as it presented an obstacle to their attainment of power in the state, from which I felt myself as effectually excluded as any Roman Catholic whatsoever, by the honest and impartial course, which my duty to my country and my conscience compelled me to pursue; and by the impediments which the expenses of the law had opposed to justice, in reference to the fortunes of my family.

But although I had thus brought into the world with me, from my school and cradle, feelings peculiar to an Irish protestant, forced into perpetual collision with elements hostile to his cloth and creed, yet, as I advanced in life, and dipped into the polluted source from whence those elements of discord derived their birth, I finally became too well acquainted with the conduct of England to this country to imagine, that because the Reformation laid the foundations of free enquiry, and consequently of religious liberty in Europe, that therefore England presented this valuable boon to Ireland without a stain; or that because an extinction of the ancient princely feuds and petty principalities of Ireland, by the English conquest, was an incalculable benefit to this latter country, that therefore England governed that country with a fair and judicious hand. The reverse of all this I at length discovered to be the fact, but not indeed until I was far advanced in life, and had studied the genuine history of my country's wrongs with impartiality and attention. Previous to this I had, from my very infancy, and



until I had nearly attained the age of 40 years, been brought into perpetual collision with the elements of hatred to the Sassenagh and his religion, without knowing that any other cause existed, save that innate spirit of persecution and hatred of religious freedom, which I then believed, and still believe to be, the cardinal mark of an Antichristian church. However, on devoting my attention a little more particularly to the political history of Ireland, and tracing the source of the penal laws through rivers of blood and over mountains of human carnage, to the confiscation of property and the possession of power in the land, I at length discovered that for the *too long* cherished hatred of the Sassenagh and his creed, there were other and deeper causes, than the narrow and intolerant spirit of the church of Rome. Thus was I led by degrees to a new and more perfect discovery of the source of our divisions, than those which I had entertained in early life; and the result was, an immovable conviction, that for the malignant scoff, and the scowling spirit of ill concealed revenge, which once met the fearless advocate of the protestant faith at every corner, he was still more deeply indebted to English policy, jealousy, and injustice, than even to the characteristic despotism and intolerance of Rome. This was the result of a fair and fearless examination of the bearings of this great question; and from the moment that my understanding became enlightened upon this subject, my conscience and my actions have kept pace with it (as the works which I have since published clearly prove); and although I remain to be a true and zealous protestant, disliking popery and persecution in all churches, and defending the right of every man to the enjoyment of civil and religious freedom, to its utmost possible extent; yet the narrow and mistaken (though honest) conceptions of my early life have fled; for I now know, not only the *effects* of the English and Romish systems, thus *harmoniously working* (for these I had alway painfully felt), but also the causes which produced them, and which are not even now (in the 19th century, and

the 7th of England's nominal dominion) more than half removed.

To develop these causes with that accuracy and superiority to prejudice, by which alone the historian's pen should be guided, would force me back, as I have already observed, through many centuries of misrule and plunder, to the period of the English invasion; but as the limits of this book will not permit me to travel in retrograde motion, to that point of time when Dermot, King of Leinster, sold this country to Henry II., and Henry contracted with Pope Adrian IV. for the privilege of reducing the Irish Bull to the English and Roman yoke. As I cannot travel so far back as this, in order to satisfy your inquiry concerning the principal roots from whence the conflicting elements of Irish society arose, I shall endeavour to supply this defect by taking my stand upon an important period of our modern history, (and one of much more importance to us than the annals of the English invasion,) namely, that in which George III. recommended his faithful Commons of Ireland to take into consideration the sufferings of his Irish Roman Catholic subjects, in order to a repeal of the penal laws by which they were oppressed. Here the greatest blunder into which England has fallen since the conquest of this country, was committed by the British government. That government had ample proof (in the history of the English Dissenters and Irish Catholics) that persecutions of the secular power, could neither exterminate the principles nor the professors of any religion (for Popery still continues in England and Protestantism in France); and they ought to have known that if the extinction of the Catholic religion in Ireland was what they sought to accomplish, they took the very worst method of producing that effect; while the only one that could reconcile an Irish Catholic population to the religion and government of their conquerors, was composed of two parts—a liberation of the people from all penal restrictions on the score of their religion, and an independent provision

for their clergy, as a compensation for the property they had lost. This, when George III. ascended the throne, would, in all probability have been accepted by the Catholic clergy of Ireland (who were then in a very degraded state) as a gracious boon; but his Majesty's advisers, either did not see the policy of this measure; or being determined to govern Ireland by the maxim "divide et impera," they rejected it; and in either case, were they not weak or wicked governors, totally unfit to guide the councils of this divided nation?\*

The misfortune however is, that such governors as these

\* It is worthy of observation that, if Popery be an evil, Ireland is indebted to England for that scourge!—Prior to the English invasion, the Irish church appears to have been independent of the See of Rome. Henry II. received the gift of Ireland from his countryman, Nicholas Breakspear, then Pope Adrian IV., on the express condition that he should reduce it to the Roman yoke, and impose the tax of Peter pence upon all householders, as a tribute of obedience and a tie of filiation to the Roman See. The Irish clergy are said to have long protested against the ambitious and arbitrary views of the See of Rome (which had been tampering with them by divers instruments); but after the arrival of Henry their remonstrances were to no purpose; the English invader forced Popery down their throats at the point of the bayonet; and when his pious namesake, Harry VIII. thought to make the men of Ireland disgorge the pill which his predecessor had administered, he found it so deeply seated in the Irish constitution, and so effectually incorporated with its blood, that no efforts of his political stomach pump, however violent, could force them to discharge it. All the succeeding Reformers in power pursued the same course (such ignorant Empirics were they); and to aid the operations of their stomach pump, they not only opened all the offices of the Irish church to the priests of the Reformation, but followed with the most bloody and inhuman penalties of their law, all those who remained faithful to those Popish legends, and that Popish usurpation of authority, which England herself had forced upon Ireland with the progress of her arms.

The Irish, however, were not a people to be thus kicked into a religion and kicked out of it at the sole will and pleasure of their conquerors. When united to a church by education, and by faith in the supposed divinity of its doctrines and ministers, no operations of human cruelty, no blandishments of human power, no semblance even of *sound reason*, could induce them to forsake it (as the Apostles of the *second reformation* now well know.) The Irish people are still attached to their church and to their chiefs. *The unjust and arbitrary acts of England have riveted that attachment*; and the hostility to her name which these acts have engendered, will only decline with the growth of a liberal policy, rapidly advancing the knowledge, wealth, and commercial interests of this injured country; and in a ratio with the same



are frequently permitted to enjoy power, property and plunder, even to the end of life; while the nations they have ruined are forced to writhe under the lash of their infernal policy, long after the authors of their misery have been dead and d—d! The King's advisers of that day were, no doubt, quite certain, that in withholding a provision from the Catholic clergy, and in governing Ireland by their own favourites, they were strengthening the power of the crown and the Protestant church; but it is now very visible to every man capable of tracing the connection between cause and effect, that in treating the sufferings of the Irish Catholic clergy with contempt, and neglecting to conciliate them by a competent provision at the *proper time*, they laid the foundations of an evil which is now rapidly recoiling upon the church which these ministers pretended to defend; to say nothing of the incurable principle of jealousy, and animosity, which they thereby created and maintained between the two churches.

The enmity that was thus planted by the policy of these ignorant or wicked ministers, has produced such fruits of desolation in my native land; and, even in my own memory, alighted with such indiscriminate vengeance upon the evil

cause, certain doctrines of Rome, and that *furious* zeal and brutal degradation of the human understanding, which a corrupt ecclesiastical interest generated, will decline also.

Mr. Lawless, a Catholic historian, appears to have borne unwilling testimony to the *early* independence of the Irish church. At pages 22 and 23 of the first edition of his compendium of Irish history, he thus writes. "About the period of the English invasion, certain ceremonies and points of discipline of the Irish church, were *first* assimilated to those of Rome. Cardinal Paparon assembled 3000 clergymen, regular and secular, in the town of Drogheda, about the year 1152, and at *this period*" (of course not before it) "the discipline of Rome was universally established, and the *spiritual supremacy* of the Pope" (he might perhaps have added for the first time) "formally acknowledged." Some difference of sentiment may occur between historians concerning the precise date of this memorable meeting; but however this may be, the previous *independence* of the Irish church is established by it, and in connection with the impudent sale of Ireland by Pope Adrian to Harry, and the measures which this Prince took to accomplish the Pope's ghostly mission, clearly prove that all previous efforts to establish the *supremacy* of the holy see in Ireland, had failed; and that for this boon (or rather *bone of contention*) we are totally indebted to the policy and the steel of England!

and the good professors of the hated creed, that I have frequently thought the cause of wise and liberal government, as well as that of civil and religious liberty, would be materially promoted by a collection of the facts (to divers of which I have been an eye witness, and in some instances a sufferer in my own person without consciousness of crime) into one volume, that the world might see reflected in this mirror of Irish martyrology, the image of that infernal brood of oppressive and vengeful monsters, that were produced and propagated in Ireland by English councils, in first planting the Pope's supremacy in that country by their arms, and then labouring by a cruel and oppressive policy to weaken and destroy it.

The effects thus produced in the Catholic and Protestant mind of Ireland, were something like those which attend the Burking system (for which species of *murder* no prompt and effectual remedy has yet been provided by the wisdom of the British government.) They were marked, not only by an absence of confidence and good-will between people of the same neighbourhood, but by suspicion, vigilance, and smothered feelings of disaffection and resentment. These feelings broke out between boys at school, and almost between infants in the cradle. Of this I could name various instances in private life, in one of which I myself was personally a sufferer when not more than twelve years old; and in the year 1798, when the death of Law and the reign of Anarchy gave an unbridled licence for exhibition to the ill smothered spirit of hatred and revenge which had long slumbered with sulky indolence in the bosoms of the parties, the existence of this spirit was exhibited by such cruel and cold-blooded murders of men, women, and children, as proved the demoniac capabilities of the factions by whom they were perpetrated; and the recollection of them at this day is almost sufficient to make an Irishman blush that his country should be stained with crimes so cruel in their nature, so hostile to humanity, and so totally contrary to the laws of war, as they are received and practised by civil-

ized nations. Nor did the spirit of hatred and revenge, thus developing to the country the full measure of its sanguinary influence, feel satisfied with the blood of its enemies in arms; or with that of the men associated with them in principle and feeling. It thirsted also for that of the peaceful Quakers, who, as merchants and manufacturers, had been of the utmost service to the working population, and who, as men of true Christian humanity, had no rivals (considered as a sect) in this or any other country of the Christian world. Divers of these peaceable men were made prisoners in the County of Wexford, and would have been piked on the spot, if they had not appealed for protection to the commanders of the rebel army. They were also threatened to be consumed with fire in their meeting-house at Enniscorthy, if they should assemble there to hold the Quarterly meeting of their province in its usual course. But Heaven, which had these peaceable people in its protection, so ordered the events of the rebellion, as that the battle which finally extinguished it, was fought at Vinegar Hill, above the town of Enniscorthy, exactly two days before the meeting commenced (of which divers from distant parts of the kingdom who attended it knew nothing at the time,) and thus the Quakers' quarterly meeting of Enniscorthy was held in peace; and being the only worshipping assembly then existing in that town or neighbourhood, it was attended, we believe, by all those poor straggling Protestants, who, like a few solitary blades of grass in a harvest field, had escaped the general desolation of the mower's scythe. But of all which happened to the peaceful Quakers at this time, there was no particular incident that struck us with more force (considered as an evidence of the *harmonious* working of English policy and Romish piety, in the schools of education in this country) than that of a deliberate effort, on the part of a Catholic child of seven years old, to take the life of Joseph Haughton, a Quaker of innocent and amiable character, residing in the County of Wexford at that time. This child, who had procured a small loaded piece, was taking deli-



berate aim at the heretic whom he hated, when a Catholic who knew and respected Haughton, happened to come up, and seized the instrument before the feeble child had power to effect his purpose. By what party or power, or for what purpose this rebellion was excited, is now immaterial to us. But it is not immaterial to an examination of the wisdom or wickedness of the policy by which the elements of Irish discord were produced, to enter a field where they were so forcibly displayed, and to prove, from the nature and circumstances of their operation at that time, that they had long slumbered in sulky silence in the cavern of the heart, before the rebellion of 1798 called them into action; and that for the gift of their primeval existence, they were exclusively indebted to that corrupt and selfish policy, by which England, through a band of very corrupt and selfish agents, had governed this country from the period of her conquest.

That the enjoyment of constitutional liberty upon the one hand, or of constitutional power upon the other, was not the sole object of the combatants in this warfare, may be easily collected from their acts; when, by the circumstances of the rebellion, their passions were liberated from the restraints of law.

It was not to preserve the British government inviolate, that the flattering choice of "Hell or Connaught," was given to the Catholics of Ulster in the tumults of that day; and that for disobedience to this despotic mandate, their properties were, in many most respectable instances of manufacturing industry, consumed to ashes. It was not to preserve that government inviolate, that floggings were inflicted upon unconvicted Irishmen, in the heart of the capital, or elsewhere, in order to extort confessions! These operations of war shew, that the party in petty power regarded their Catholic countrymen as the natural enemies of the state; and they imply a consciousness, on the part of these abusers of temporary power, that human nature, governed without justice, by the mere law of force, must necessarily be the enemy of that power, and of that people,

which thus trample upon nature's rights. Viewing the Catholics of Ireland through this medium, it is not surprising that the Orangemen of that country, who were then the right arm of the British government, should indulge their hatred of Popery and Papists in the most licentious abuses of their temporary power; but to pretend that these violations of justice were volunteered in the service of a wise and good government, is rather too gross an insult to common sense! No; there was a deeper cause than the support of government for these anti-constitutional proceedings—there was that species of hatred and suspicion to be indulged, which every man naturally feels towards the victims of his own robbery and wrong.—There were places and pensions, with the monopolies of office, to be preserved.—There was the plunder of civil and ecclesiastical corporations to be kept whole and entire!

These were the true motives of the ultra loyalty of that day; and as they fully account for the course that was pursued, so they clearly exhibit the character of that policy, from which Ireland has equally derived her poverty and her vice.

On the other hand, we find the same policy producing among the Roman Catholics of Ireland, an inveterate hatred of the Sassenagh, his religion, and his oppressions; and thus working, by the same means, the same salutary purposes of hatred and division; with this single difference, however, in the national character of their vices, that the Orange persecutions were purely of English manufacture, while those of the Catholic party were tinged with an infusion of superstitious fanaticism, from a foreign and alien source. But that the deeds of cruelty which the Catholics perpetrated (to say nothing of their *sale* of Ireland's political independence for the selfish hope of emancipation, which was held out to them) were totally incompatible with the noble feelings of a patriot, and uncalled for by the necessities of an honourable warfare, is self-evident. It was not to obtain a deliverance from civil and ecclesiastical oppres-

sion, that Protestant women and children were burned to ashes, in the barn at Scullabogue, and thrown back among the blazing elements with pikes when they attempted to escape,) a piece of cruelty which took place in the County of Wexford, in the rebellion of 1798. It was not to maintain the cause of liberty by an honourable warfare, that British officers, who were taken prisoners by the French, who landed at Killala, would have been murdered by the rebels in cold blood, but for the officers of the French invading army, who had taken these monsters into their service, and whose commander is reported to have said, that if he had known the character of the people of the country, he would not have landed a French soldier on their coast. These officers, moved with indignation at the savage and cowardly spirit of the assassins, who would have thus murdered their prisoners of war in cold blood, drew their sabres and threatened to cut them down; and finding, in the course of their dealings with them, that they could not be restrained within the limits of military duty, they are said to have brought several of them to trial, and hanged them for a violation of the laws of war.

This sanguinary spirit was nursed and brought to maturity in Ireland, by a course of ill-founded favouritism upon the one hand, and of wicked and unrelenting persecution upon the other. And so far as the peasantry of the country are concerned, the system which has corrupted Ireland still exists; since for this class the laws have provided no protection against the grinding despotism of their domestic oppressors, notwithstanding the obvious proofs which the state of the country exhibits of the absolute necessity of securing the just and reasonable rights of the labourer, by special laws.

When William III. mounted the throne of England, he is said to have made vigorous efforts to tranquillize Ireland, and unite it to the sister country by a healing policy. To this end he offered to the Catholics of that country, through Lord Tyrconnel, half the forfeited lands, and half the church property, if they would lay down their arms and acknow-



ledge the new dynasty. This was a proposal worthy of a soldier and a statesman, who determined, if possible, to heal divisions, and to govern his new empire by equal laws; and I shall not easily believe that the man who did this, and who fought the battles of liberty upon the continent of Europe, where he was born, would have violated the treaty of Limerick, conspired against the trade of Ireland, or have ordered the cowardly and cold-blooded massacre of the repenting rebels at Glencoe (at the moment when they entertained his men, and reposed confidence in his princely clemency,) if he had not been betrayed by the agents of his authority into *unconscious crime*; and that he was betrayed, both in Scotland and Ireland, by the perfidious villains in whom he trusted, and forced, by their superior sway, to yield to a narrow and selfish policy, beneath the native dignity of his mind, a careful examination of all the incidents connected with these events, will prove to the satisfaction of every honest and candid mind.

William being thus defeated in the just and generous policy by which he had hoped to govern Ireland, and the plunderers of that country triumphant in their purpose, it is not surprising that they fanned the flame of religious discord; well knowing that it would produce a spirit of discontent and reaction; that it would unite the Protestants together, and constitute their ignorant populace a wall of defence to these English plunderers; while the resentment and reaction of the Irish Catholics would furnish a feasible pretence for the enactment of those penal laws (such as £5 for the head of a priest; the power of a Protestant to dispossess a Catholic of any house worth more than £5; the power of a younger son, becoming a Protestant, to take the family estate from his elder brother, &c.) which so long disgraced the statute books of our insulted country; and, until a very recent period of English history, were made the effectual instruments of promoting a spirit of hatred, and maintaining a wall of separation between the two parties.—A wall, did we say?—Yes, a wall of separation, so strong,

and in such good repair, that it will take a century of wise legislation and liberal government effectually to remove it; and perhaps two centuries to eradicate the last lingering remnant of its bigoted and blood-stained base.

This unhappy principle of division (from which all sensible Irishmen of all parties are now labouring to escape) was not a *caput mortuum*, or sleeping theory of law, like that article of the English criminal code, which empowered an English judge to hang up a hungry English citizen for the commission of a theft of one shilling! It was a living and operative principle, entailing poverty, oppression and revenge upon the peasant; and upon the virtuous Protestant in private life, the suspicion, hatred and contempt of those, to a mitigation of whose sufferings he would have contributed, had his power been equal to his virtue; while to the professors of this religion, in the enjoyment of place or pension, power, property, or plunder, it imparted all the characteristics of a jealous and ferocious tyrant! This was the boon conferred upon our country by the penal laws, by the principle of monopoly and exclusion, and by the policy implied in the maxim of "divide and govern;" and under its effects our country is still deeply groaning; its poor are unprovided for, its artizans are unemployed, its manufactures have nearly perished; and the fertile fields of Munster are still the disgraceful scenes of anarchy and blood, from which they can only be preserved, even for a single year, by the presence of a resistless military establishment!

For the principle of religious discord (which, though still too prevalent among the poor, is rapidly declining among the better classes) we are deeply indebted to those meritorious counsellors of Geo. III., who, while recommending to his Majesty a repeal of the penal laws affecting the Catholics of Ireland, had not the common sense to see, that any repeal of the penal laws which did not abolish all ecclesiastical impositions (which the poor could not afford to pay), and provide for the Catholic clergy a respectable substitute for individual contributions, would prove ultimately ineffi-

cient, in reference to the peace and harmony of the two churches.

About two years after, I first thought it my duty to call the attention of the British government to this cardinal blunder of the preceding reign, in a work published under the title of "Ireland exhibited to England," (and I believe I was the first Irish writer who had done so since the revolution of 1688,) the ministers of that day are said to have so far acted upon this just and necessary principle, as to make overtures of a state provision to the Irish Roman Catholic clergy (not however as a *substitute* for all private contributions of the poor, which is the only true mode, since in any other way it would be a heavy addition to existing evils, instead of a remedy for the disease,) but this proposal, which would have been salutary, and in all probability well received when a repeal of the penal laws was first recommended by the crown, was, very naturally, viewed with suspicion, and finally rejected, by the clergy and gentry of that church, they being then in the enjoyment of comparative opulence, by the benefits which they and their fathers had derived from the modern indulgence of the law, the rapid march of British commerce; and, we may add, of liberal sentiments in every enlightened country in Europe. Feeling themselves comparatively independent of the state when this arrangement was suggested; and a certain proportion of the Irish Catholic leaders violently averse from any junction of their clergy with the government, (a gross error by the bye, for a state provision would impose no other tie upon the clergy, than that which the law imposes upon the judge who is independent of the crown,) they rejected a proposal, *à posteriori*, which if tendered at the proper time, would, in all probability, have been received with joy by the whole body of their people, as a boon of mercy to the Nation. That this rejection, however, was more the act of *certain* Catholic leaders, (for in reference to the poor, so far as I could discover in conversation with them, *they* would have hailed it with delight,) than of the clergy or the people generally,



may be fairly inferred; first from the disposition evinced by two of the most learned and powerful of the Catholic body to entertain this question; secondly, from the evident relief which the measure itself would afford to the entire poor of Ireland; thirdly, from the rectitude of the provision, as an act of pecuniary compensation to the Catholic clergy for that which they had lost; and lastly, from the illiberal and ungracious necessity imposed upon them of begging at the altar; and the evil moral influence inseparable from those differences that never fail to attend a mode of maintenance, which brings the Pastor and his flock into pecuniary conflicts, disgraceful to religion, and equally painful and prejudicial to them both.

Should the enemies of common sense and common fact, stand up to resist this doctrine, on the ground of its nonconformity to the precepts of the gospel and the practice of the primitive church, and fling in our face the apostolic precept, "Let him who ministers at the altar, live by the altar;" we reply; why this is the very thing we are here pleading for. We want the minister of peace and plenty, to live in the enjoyment of *peace* and *plenty*, by the altar at which he ministers: *to live by the property that has been set apart for that altar*: to be so far respectably supplied with income out of that fund (and it is a large one) that he need neither starve, nor prove oppressive to the poor of his flock, nor be brought into an evil collision with them by the pressure of his pecuniary necessities. And is this an immoral end? Is this a violation of the apostolic precept, to live by the altar? Alas! I cannot but lament that the understandings of my countrymen should have travelled so slowly with the reason of the age. But some will say, did not our Saviour give this precept to his apostles, "freely ye have received, freely give," "take neither purse nor scrip nor two coats," &c.? This text, however, will no more serve their purpose than the other. First, because it was given in a warm climate, where one good coat or cloak was quite sufficient: and secondly, because the apostles, to whom it was given,

received all that was necessary to their maintenance and ministry, promptly and freely, from our Lord himself; while the clergy of all our churches, without exception, have now to pay very large sums of money for their religion and learning; and therefore could not be expected, in reason, to give that to the world gratis, for which they themselves have paid such a very large consideration, both in time and money.

Should any such men as the *primitives* alluded to, happen to start up (and these are comets whose appearance the clergy of the Christian world are by no means courting,) *that* would furnish no argument against those National establishments, which should be provided for by the state, for the maintenance of good order; and this being once established upon foundations of justice, conducive to the peace and freedom of the country; if the primitive men alluded to should happen to come round, *that* will produce no disturbance in the state, as *their kingdom is not of this world*; as these kind of people go every where that God sends them, regardless of all human provisions, and of the limitations of sect and Nation; as they have seldom occasion to ask even a living for their labours, since there is no heart, however high or however low, that infinite mercy has prepared for the reception of such messengers as these, that would not cheerfully open its little cabinet of treasures (like Lydia of Thyatira) to make the heart of the bearer of such tidings as they convey, sing for joy! Here, then, is our view of a provision for the Catholic clergy out of the existing funds of the church; and in every aspect in which its image can be fairly viewed in the mirror of reason, (whether as that image connects itself with the poor of Ireland, the clergy of their church, or THE BRITISH STATE, of which Providence has made them members) it has a decided superiority over the jealousies and conflicts of the tributary system.

As to the advocates of the begging plan, we have only to request they will point out to us the peculiar advantage resulting from the mendicant system, established in this country among the monastic orders. These orders may,

perhaps, supply the established clergy's lack of service, and in this respect prove useful to the people; but whether they do, or whether they do not; whether they exalt the public mind by rational views of Christian piety, or debase it by low and grovelling superstitions, it is not our present business to examine; but merely to maintain, that the course of life peculiar to these orders, and perhaps proper for *them*, is not well adapted to the influence and respectability, that ought to be found inseparable from the station and office of a parochial clergy; and whether to this influence and respectability, individual contributions, or a parliamentary provision, is the more conducive, we leave the public to judge.

We have now noticed the objections which have been made to a state provision for the clergy, on the ground that it has no authority in scripture *precept*; and shall next turn to those who urge the *example* of the first ages of the church, as a rule of discipline.

It is somewhat surprising that those sticklers for primitive purity, who so frequently urge the *example* of an infant church, should forget that in the ages of which they speak; as there was *no Christian state existing*, so there could be no appeal made to any such for any system of ministerial support. The church and its ministers were objects of *persecution*, and not *protection*, to the existing powers; and, consequently, no argument can be drawn from the *conduct* of the church, in such circumstances, against *that system of sensible relief to a whole nation*, for which we here plead with a christian state, and even demand, as an act of justice to the people, from the hands of a *professedly christian power*. But if these early ages of the church afford no example of a state provision, does the wealth which Constantine (the first Christian Emperor) is said to have poured into the lap of the church, provide no inferential evidence that it is the duty of a Christian state to make such a provision for the standing orders of clergy, as shall afford *sensible relief*, both to the clergy and to the poor; while, *by the*



*same act of reform*, it would correct those shameful extremes of *overgrown revenue and grinding poverty*, by which the church, established by law in these countries, is so *disgracefully* DISTINGUISHED!

If these arguments should have no weight with the scripturians alluded to, we beg to ask them what the Bible means by that remarkable prophecy, where, in speaking of the order and felicity of the future gospel church, it is expressly asserted, that “Kings should be its nursing fathers and Queens its nursing mothers.” We have not the passage just now before us (for some *honest* Irishman has stolen our concordance) but we are *sure* it is among the prophecies; and if it do not make for our case, when pleading the cause of the poor against their oppressors, we should be glad to know what case it makes for, since it lends no assistance to the *gross inequalities and sinful injustice* of our established church.

From this prophecy it is then evident, that Kings and Queens would become the nursing fathers and mothers of the Christian church—and this is exactly the thing we plead for; namely, that the rich and powerful should support the church, as they can well afford it; and that the poor, who cannot afford it, should pay NOTHING; particularly in a country where there are LANDS worth more than a million sterling a-year, set apart for the service of religion, and which, if fairly distributed among the various classes of Priesthood, would liberally support them all—support them, did we say?—no, not merely support them, but as all the necessities of life now sell, would render them eminently *opulent* in comparison of the clergy of other nations; and particularly in Ireland, where potatoes have been sold at so small a price as from one penny to three per stone, since the establishment of the peace; and it is unnecessary to remark how willing these humble and pious ministers would be to live, with the bulk of their people, upon this nutritious root, moistened with a sup of butterless milk; or seasoned with a little salt; and, as a peculiar luxury of rare occurrence, with

a *sweet* salt herring, to make it smack pleasant on their Lordships' and Reverences' palates!

With a property set apart for religious and charitable uses, that is more than equivalent to the comfortable maintenance of the priests of all parties, ought not the British government which possesses the power, also to possess the will, to divide that property in fair proportions between them; and thus put an end, at once and for ever, to all those tithes and offerings, by which the poor have been oppressed, and the clergy brought so frequently into hostile collision with their people, and with each other.

That such abuses have been permitted to exist, and for so long a period of time, can only be accounted for by the coeval existence of a corrupt or incompetent parliament, occupied in contracts for seats and pensions, and places and patronage, instead of being steadily engaged, like some parliaments of better days, in laying the axe to the root of National corruptions. The time however, I trust, is now fast approaching, when no poor man shall be obliged to pay turnpike money on the road to Heaven, in a country that possesses such ample funds as England does, for keeping that road in good repair. In such a country, it is extremely hard that the myriads of gate keepers that the Pope of Rome and the King of England have thought proper to place upon that road, should be thrown upon the people for support! but this abuse, which has lasted too long, will be disposed of by a reformed parliament; and then the lands originally set apart for the support of the gate keepers, and other purposes of national police (but of which, a certain order of *thieves* among the gate keepers, have for a long time contrived by trickery, to hold sole possession) shall be fairly let, in the farm way, and the income appropriated, as it ought, to the support of all the decent and well behaved gate keepers on that part of the road to Heaven which goes through the British states, by a board of all parties, appointed by parliament for that special purpose. When this shall take place and be made the law of England, then all turn-

pike jobbing on the road to Heaven will cease, and every man of every sect may travel on any side of that road that may best suit his fancy or his feet, since he will be asked no questions and will have no toll to pay.

The contemplation of such a happy period for Ireland, and the signs of the times which point towards it, we hail with pleasure. Government, in the appointment of a board of education, composed of the clergy of all classes, have commenced the work of a healthful amalgamation of the people; but it will not do to stop here.

That power indeed must be fit to govern nations, that is so ignorant of human nature as not to know, that the peasant's oracle of Heaven is its best auxiliary; that this oracle infuses whatever notions of religion and politics he may think fit, into the youthful mind, through its nurse and mother; and that the creed, religious and political, which he sanctifies in the temple of religion, and in the homely peasant's cot, is rendered doubly dear and sacred, by every privation, and by every stroke of persecution (or even of JUSTICE) that is laid upon the prohibited creed and its supporters by the state.—In such a war as this, religion, tradition, history, prejudice, poetry, music, (and even envy, hatred, and malice,) are all enlisted in support of the favorite system (even although it should be *infamously corrupt*,) and *against* the system that may be patronized by power, even although it should be virtuous and just, and the reformation which it seeks to establish, well calculated to ameliorate and improve the condition of the people!—It is therefore the duty of the civil power, in all countries where forms of religion have been long established, to attach the clergy to the state, and to work such reformations through them, as the country may be capable of progressively receiving, in its march towards moral and political perfection.

In the omission of this timely measure of ecclesiastical reform, may be found the first principle of the wars of the Irish peasantry against the tithe system; for how could these poor people sustain the weight of two expensive



churches, thrown almost exclusively upon the peasant and small farmer, by that iniquitous act of the Irish Parliament, an abolition of the tithe of agistment, enacted for the sole purpose of protecting gentlemen's demesnes and feeding grounds from the operations of the tithe tax; while the poor grower of corn and potatoes was left to writhe under the weight of its unmitigated burthen!

Of the resistance in Ireland to this odious tax (a tax equally injurious to industry, religion and good neighbourhood, to the clergy and the people) we find various notices in the political and parliamentary documents of the last century; and among the rest, in the writings of the celebrated Father O'Leary, who laboured with considerable ability, and some success, to tranquillize the people of his own persuasion, in the province of Munster, where he then resided. The nuisance, however, *continuing* to press upon the poor, and receiving no mitigation from Parliament, the consequence was, that to the Whiteboys (who flourished in O'Leary's time) various other illegal associations succeeded; and so many of them have been formed, even in our own day, that (without the aid of printed documents, of which we have none at hand) we could not pretend to give the English reader a catalogue even of their names and number. We do however recollect that to the Whiteboys succeeded the Right-boys, Hearts-of-oak, Hearts-of-steel, Threshers, Carders, Defenders, Rockites, Ribbon-men, Terry Alts, &c.; and to the system of law and government which produced these, we are also indebted for those called the "Loyal Orange Associations," instituted for the maintenance of tithes, church-rates, vestry jobbing, bishops princely estates, rotten boroughs, and all other institutions of this country, however bad, that had the authority of law.—These Orangemen, it is true, were *loyal Protestants*, and for a season very useful to the government, as props to the existing system; but happily for the British people, their rulers at length began to see that this system would not do; and now many of the lower Orangemen, who

had been made use of by the bishops and the borough-mongers, as bullocks or wool-packs in the front of an army of defence, to prevent the bullets of the *rapidly increasing* army of the Reformers from reaching to the *pockets* of the commanders in the *rear*,) have latterly had their eyes opened; and, like many of the yeomanry of Manchester, who fought so bravely in the same cause, have joined the ranks of reform, and are now clamouring, in the political circles of their country, for a removal of those abuses under which so many of the King's subjects have suffered, and by which none profited save those who got the plunder of their country, collected from the sweat of generations, firm in their grasp.

To this unjust and unequal policy may be traced, as to their primitive source, all those violent *unconstitutional* measures, to which the government have been *compelled* to have recourse for the preservation of the peace, under the pressure of a partial and oppressive system. The cause of these disorders is clearly traceable to the *errors* of the system; which working their effects by their own proper laws, the current of human action became irritated, was thrown into a state of unnatural fermentation, and finally overflowed its banks; and to restrain the destructive progress of this deluge, laws of sudden and violent coercion were resorted to. But as these are, at best, but temporary specifics for a disease which lies at the very root of the Irish system, it is obvious where the remedy should be first applied.

This remedy is now well known to the British public. It is an effectual reform of the laws and policy by which Ireland has been hitherto governed; including a deliverance of the peasantry from all civil and ecclesiastical oppressions; and providing for them a certain asylum in sickness and old age: a measure of reformation which can only be wrought by securing to them a living compensation for their labour; by protecting them against land jobbing extortion, by providing for them a well regulated poor law, by an abolition of the tithe tax, as it affects the crop for their support; and by

a parliamentary provision for their clergy, to whose wants they are incompetent to contribute without inflicting a deep and deadly wound upon the most wretched and scanty means of their own existence.\*

\* If a state provision for the Roman Catholic clergy, and a deliverance of the Irish peasantry from all ecclesiastical taxation, whether imposed by custom or by law, are measures without which, the foundations of a lasting peace, and the progressive advancement of the people in knowledge, cannot be laid in Ireland. If such be the fact, and some who know Ireland well, and who are good friends of England too, are strongly of this opinion, then no time should be lost in making an effort to repair the mischiefs that have been created and maintained by former governments.

The Roman Catholic clergy are now paid without law ; but they are paid chiefly by the poor, which is extremely wrong, and in some instances they are reduced to the necessity of collecting their revenues by a degrading system of solicitation, which is wrong also. To pay the same or a similar amount out of any existing fund (such as the consolidated fund, or the church property fund, on a reform of that property taking place) would afford considerable relief to the labouring classes, and to their clergy also ; and in whatever point of view it might be taken, it could not in truth be regarded as a *new burthen*, since it was always borne by the country, but borne *unjustly* by those who were least able to sustain it.

As a hint to the present legislators of the land, who appear anxious to purify the system of law and government from the errors of past ages, we beg to point out the mode of proceeding that we would recommend, in reference to a still practicable remedy for this great fundamental evil of the Irish system.

And first we would begin to legislate upon this question, without holding any consultation whatever with the people who were to be benefited by the law. Of this, neither the people nor their clergy could justly complain, because we would make the law conditional and not coercive. We would hold no conference with the Irish Catholic church upon the subject, because that church might be divided in opinion ; because time and reflection would be necessary to remove prejudices and prove the justice of the law ; and lastly, because the acceptance of the boon must be altogether voluntary on the part of the receivers. The single duty of the state (a duty which should not be encumbered with useless conferences or distracting counsels) would be, to **MAKE THE PROVISION**, and leave the beneficial influences of the law to time, to reflection, to sober reason, and to irresistible necessity, all of which would work progressively in its favour, and procure for it a certain triumph.

Having given the force of law to the *provision*, and determined the mode by which that provision should be raised, we would next enter upon a graduated scale of payment ; and as we would make **A SOLEMN RENUNCIATION OF ALL PRIVATE DUES OR LEVIES AN INDISPENSABLE TITLE TO THE BOUNTY OF THE STATE**, we would make that provision sufficiently liberal for all the purposes of a respectable maintainance for the working clergy, with an extra allow-



We have now noticed a few of the deep roots of bitterness in the political wilderness of the Irish system, that require to

ance to the higher orders, suited to their rank and expenses in the church and in the world.

To the Roman Catholic primate of Ireland, we would give £1500 per annum; to each of the archbishops £1200; (while in the act of classifying these officers, a thought just now occurs to us. As there is a loud call for economy and *retrenchment*, and the bishops have not much business to do, might not these officers be reduced in each church to one half of their present number without prejudice to the service?) to each bishop £1000 per annum; to each dean £500; to each archdeacon £400; to each rector from 2 to £300 (according to the expenses of his residence in town or country) and to each curate £75 per annum, with an allowance of one or more curates to each rector, according to the extent and population of his parish.

Having thus fixed the scale of payment, and determined the fund from whence that payment should arise, we would have the income of each year, thus due and payable by law to the Catholic clergy, lodged with the county treasurers, to be paid by them to the claimants residing in their respective districts, and returned, if not claimed, or any unclaimed portion thereof, to his majesty's Irish treasury, there to *accumulate* for the benefit of THE FIRST CLAIMANT, each such claimant to receive the income of all preceding years arising from his parish, diocese, or cure, according to his rank, from the passing of the act to the period of his claim, he proving himself to be the lawfully appointed officer of the see or cure for which he claims, and swearing that so long as the state shall continue to him this respectable provision appointed by the law for his support, he shall receive for his religious services no pecuniary compensation whatever from the people.

Thus would we place upon a durable, a respectable, and an independent base, the Roman Catholic church of Ireland, and on terms of a common interest and a common amity with the Protestant government and population of Great Britain—and that too by a mode, which instead of imposing any new burthen upon the country, would relieve that country of a large portion of its existing encumbrances. Thus would we unite “happy homes with altars free,” by removing every stain of oppression, and of indelicate solicitation and reproach, from religious services. For every clergyman of the established churches of England, Scotland, and Rome, and to whose ministry a congregation was attached, we would make a competent provision out of ancient and *ill-appropriated* ecclesiastical estates, which only need to be fairly let and wisely organised, in order to meet a much larger claim than this, without imposing any new burthen upon the country. These estates are now farmed out, in numerous instances, on bishop's leases of twenty-one years, (we understand a bishop can grant no longer lease by law) to families who hold splendid seats and highly cultivated demesnes and farms, at an acreable rent of a few shillings, that, in many instances, would now let for nearly so many pounds! And these tenants contrive, by paying a good yearly fine to the

be extracted from the soil; and they have indeed all the merit imputed by the ancients to the box of *Pandora*, from

existing bishop for an *annual* renewal of their lease at *the old rent*, to have ALWAYS a twenty or twenty-one years title to run against the life of his successor, should the latter, which he seldom does, refuse to tread in the annual renewal track, in which his predecessors for generations had trod before him. Thus have a million acres (of more than a million annual value) of the best lands in Ireland, been thrown into the hands of a few bishops and their tenants, while the people have been compelled to support their various priesthoods, by tithes, taxes, and voluntary contributions, notwithstanding these lands, if fairly let, and fairly divided between the clergy of all the Irish churches, would make them the richest clergy in the world; and to support this unjust and oppressive monopoly of a few individuals, the people have been ground to powder, and the country thrown into a state of civil war!

Were this reform of church property to take place, then tithes of every description might be instantly abolished, and those voluntary contributions by which the clergy of the dissenting churches are now supported by their people, abolished also. The clergy of all these various churches (in reference to their mode of maintenance) would then be placed by law upon an equal footing; and as, under the operation of such a system, there would be no just reason for jealousy or discontent, they would draw more cordially together in works of charity and public utility, and would enjoy a happy exemption from the jealousies created by extravagant monopolies in the church, and from the altercations and disgrace inseparable from pecuniary differences with their people, on the subject of ecclesiastical exactions. And as a property exists, nominally, but not truly, applied to the purposes of religion (but rather to those of jealousy and discord), that, under wise regulations, would be more than sufficient for the maintenance of all our churches; and which, thus wisely appropriated, would deliver the Catholics of Ireland from a heavy twofold burthen, what a pity it is that the government of these countries should want either the knowledge, the virtue, or the power, to carry the healing system that we here speak of into effectual operation.

Some Catholics have said that their clergy might become indolent, like some of our own, if they were provided for by the state,—to which we reply, would their curates become indolent upon £75 a year, and their parish priests upon two or three hundred? Are the Scotch clergy indolent, who are thus competently provided for, and WHO HAVE NO BISHOPS TO CALL THEM TO ACCOUNT? and would the Irish Catholic clergy, habituated to labour, and liable to be cashiered by their superiors for neglect of duty, be injured in their virtues by an exemption from money trucking, or by that sentiment of self-respect, which is the natural effect of a justly merited independence?

Other objectors say, that such a provision would prove injurious to liberty, inasmuch as it would throw the weight of the Roman Catholic and Presbyterian churches into the scale of crown influence. This objection we have elsewhere confronted with the just and legitimate argument of the judges'

which an indiscriminate mixture of all possible evils was poured forth upon the world; for if it may be said in truth of any moral, or of any political tree that has ever grown out of the soil of a wicked system, that the fruits of that tree are *an unmitigated poison*, religious discord, for which our country is so famous, is that prolific plant; and from the soil of Ireland, this plant will never be extracted, until "justice has been laid to the line, and righteousness to the plumb line," of ecclesiastical plunder and oppression, by the united powers of an enlightened government with those of a free and an aggrieved people.

independence of the crown. Were it a *Regium donum* that we plead for (such as that which the Irish Presbyterians now enjoy,) the objection would have some force; but in reference to a parliamentary provision for the clergy now unprovided for, it is a mere *corpus mortuum*, a form without life. But let us look to France and to our own country for an illustration of this truth. And first to our own country. At the moment while we write this note, a very large proportion of the dignitaries of our church, and of its clergy generally, are at issue with the crown and its ministers upon the great and important questions of parliamentary reform and Irish literary education; and should these questions be carried, it will not be by an obsequious submission of the church to the power and influence of the crown, but by such a powerful junction of the people as shall lay the unhallowed opposition of the clergy prostrate in the dust. The clergy are therefore an independent body, and act by the counsel of their own will. Again, has the provision made by the laws of France for the clergy of all denominations, produced this effect; or rather, are not many of the Catholic clergy in that country, like many of the Protestants in this, a sort of rebels against the crown?

In any new arrangement for the maintenance of the clergy, the law would make the provision as it has made it for the bench; and nothing but corruption or incapacity *in the eye of the law*, would be able to deprive the official of his legal revenue; for wheresoever the congregation was attached, there the salary should be paid, leaving conscience free and unrestricted for the performance of its own office; for with its sacred dictates, or with any other than the broad characteristic distinctions of religion (like the broad characteristics of blue and green, of which there are divers shades) should the profane hand of law presume to interfere.

In all respects, the minister of every church thus provided for would be a free citizen, and need not be the slave of any faction, or the minion of any authority in church or state; and should he preach the doctrines of active obedience to a good government, and even long suffering submission to a bad one, it would be nothing more than the religion of christianity (as we find it in the New Testament) requires from all its ministers.



Had this tree been rooted out from the soil of Ireland, by a timely reformation of the property of the church, issuing in a deliverance of the peasantry from all ecclesiastical taxation, by an abolition of the tithe system, and by a parliamentary provision for the Catholic clergy (not as an auxiliary to the marriages, funerals, and other impositions of the latter, but as a substitute for all impositions, present and to come) we could then have well afforded to forgive the past, after having dropped a tear upon the mighty hecatombs of human victims that have been sacrificed upon the altars of church rapacity, in almost every Christian nation of the world; but by none more eminently, alas! than by those who in Ireland are called the Bishops of the reformed church, appointed by a Protestant government to lead the Catholics of that country, by their doctrine and example, out of the errors of popery into the light and liberty of that Gospel, of which these Bishops *pretend* to be the champions and defenders?

But although the ecclesiastical system of which we complain is one of the greatest grievances under which Ireland groans; yet the evils which demoralize the country and goad the peasant into midnight massacre and blood, do not end here. The state has contributed to swell these evils, by a contempt of the labourer's rights; and the landlord or middle man, by his avarice or neglect. Let the reader turn to our note on Leitrim, in this volume, and he will see how the criminal laws (criminal indeed) are made to operate against the life and liberty of the Irish peasant, by those gross perversions of justice, of which he is made the perpetual victim, in divers parts of those southern or western districts, in which his unfortunate destiny has placed him under the hands of wicked and unprincipled magistrates, who, in some instances, have plunged him into the dungeons of his country, and placed him on trial for his life, on the information of women of loose morals, who had been *the long and willing partners* of his crime, if crime it were! But in addition to all this, the very possibility of supporting his existence by honest labour, is nearly cut off in some of those

districts, by the low prices for labour, and the high prices for land. Only think of a cottier or small tenant (and this is no solitary case) without constant employment, and when employed by his master, receiving from four to sixpence per day for twelve hours' work! with a family of perhaps six, eight, or ten persons to support by the produce of his conacre, and in many instances compelled to pay for this potatoe plot (which he sows and digs out at his own expense) at the rate of eight guineas per acre! (the average farm price for eight acres of land) and, in the neighbourhood of towns, very frequently ten guineas, (and after this to surrender a tithe of his crop, to a priest of whom he knows nothing); and yet for these grievous impositions upon the want and poverty of the peasant, there is no remedy in law; although there is a remedy for the *gentleman*, if he should be overcharged by his attorney, or defrauded by his baker; and for the professional man, should he choose to *enforce* his fee; and, in this situation of the Irish peasant, can the intelligent Englishman feel surprised that he is a rebel to the laws, and compelled, by the very necessities of his nature, to make war upon the men and the institutions which oppress him; while to maintain a military establishment, in order to restrain him from acts of robbery and murder, the trade and capital of Great Britain and Ireland must be burthened with a system of taxation, which clogs the wheels of industry, and renders it extremely difficult for the British merchant to maintain that ascendancy in the scale of commerce, to which his merits and previous advantages had well entitled him.

Could not parliament legislate upon this subject with as much propriety, as upon the prices of corn, the weight of bread, the fees of attorneys, or the salaries of officers of justice? and in reference to the peace and improvement of Ireland, is not the call for parliamentary interference in favour of the Irish labourer and his family, at least equally imperative?\*

\* Whether would it be better for parliament to effect a total abolition of tithes; to purify our criminal laws; to provide profitable employment for

Is it not also wicked and unjust to compel the industrious citizen to pay war prices, by old contracts for lands and houses, when the owners of these lands and houses receive from the tenantry of the country in return, twice the quantity of manufactured goods, and twice the quantity of agricultural produce, that they would have received from the producer when these contracts were entered into during the late war? Here the whole weight of oppression is thrown by the selfish landlord, and by a government obstinately rejecting an equitable adjustment of war contracts, upon the shoulders of the industrious classes, whose privations and sufferings under the burthen of this war system, in a period of profound peace and of unprecedentedly low prices for all the products of human labour, no language can describe; and this mode of proceeding cannot but be rendered doubly galling, by the good care which is generally taken of the great and wealthy, whose interests (whether in or out of office) are seldom neglected by the rulers and legislators of the land! In relation to the Irish labourer, the absentee also steps in to increase his oppressions, by withdrawing that income from the country which he produces by his labour, and a proportion of which, in strict justice, should be applied to the employment and improvement of that people, by whose labour the income is produced.

In the substitution of cold and unfeeling agents for the presence of the owners of the soil—in the deep and extensive failure of Irish manufactures—in the almost total

the poor in the disturbed districts; and to put an end to all petty oppressions of the labourer, by fixing the standard of his wages, and the price of his potatoe land, and thus make him feel, by blessed personal experience, (the only way that he can feel it) the advantage which he derives from the protection of English law: and then if disorderly proceedings did not cease, (and it could not in reason be expected that a new and equitable system of law and government would remove them all at once) have immediate recourse to the insurrection act, which is a prompt remedy, sheds no blood, and deprives no man of his day's labour; or leave Ireland open for ever (like a field without a fence) to briars and thorns of oppression, upon the one hand; and to the lawless ravages of men rendered furious by a wicked contempt of the rights of nature, upon the other?



absence of public works—in the dormant state of our numerous minerals—in the similar state of millions of acres of waste lands—in the general dearth of employment for the poor—in the low prices of human labour—in the corrupt state of our criminal laws—in the corrupt administration of justice by petty magistrates—in the heavy oppressions and divisions of our ecclesiastical system; and in the general deluge of ignorance, passion, poverty, beggary and crime, which these united causes produce, may be found an answer to the English reader's inquiry relative to the causes by which Ireland has been demoralized and laid waste; and to these may be fairly added, an unhappy attachment of the people to ardent spirits, litigation, and party quarrels; evils which the progress of education, and a sensible improvement in the physical and social comforts of the people, would materially correct.

Regarding, as we have always done, the absentee system as a great national evil, and the expenditure of the income of the land in foreign countries, as the deepest source of poverty and want of employment to the Irish people; and being firmly convinced that by the establishment of a local legislature upon the soil of Ireland (for purposes of domestic improvement, and for these only) this pregnant spring of ruin to the country might be subverted; not only without prejudice, but with great advantage to the state; the author of this work thought it his duty, at the close of his north-west tour, to publish a pamphlet in Dublin on this subject, in the form of a letter to the king; and as this letter contains a complete answer to all the principal objections that had been previously made to this useful measure, and divers important reflections upon the defective state of the legislative government of Great Britain and her colonies; confirmed also by the views taken of the same subject by Sir John Sinclair (the celebrated Scotch statician), and other able writers; he shall make no apology for introducing this letter to the notice of the English reader, when the last question of this honest enquirer concerning the author's

country has been answered. This vital measure (without which there is great reason to fear that Ireland will never be united to England by any better tie than that which binds to his master the slave, who only wishes for a *safe* opportunity to cut his throat) shall be then introduced.

E. R. On casting my eye over certain works that you have produced on Ireland, in the course of my visits to that country, I have perceived a considerable part of these works occupied with descriptions of Irish seats and landscapes (blended, it is true, with occasional reflections calculated to draw the attention of strangers to the beauties of your country, and that of the owners of the soil to some useful and necessary improvements) but as these do not come up to my ideas of a work intended to promote the substantial interests of Ireland, I should be glad to know what end do you propose to yourself by these descriptions?

A. As coming from an English merchant, who could not easily place himself, even in thought, in the circumstances of an Irish author and his country, I am not surprised at the question you have put to me. The descriptions, however, to which you allude; in reference to the resident gentlemen of Ireland, and to the poor that are dependent upon them, are not altogether useless. They have a tendency to draw the attention of an Irishman to his native land, and to encourage a spirit of improvement in the country (as you yourself appear to acknowledge.) But besides this (and even this is a right course to be pursued in relation to a country so deeply neglected,) there are other reasons to justify these descriptions.—To trouble you and the public with all these reasons in detail, would be an indelicate trespass upon the reader's feelings and my own; but in reference to an *accurate* account of the rural history of Irish properties (if such could be procured, which it could not,) it would prove of more service to Ireland, than all the bulky volumes that have been written upon its ancient history; as it would let the public into a very large proportion of the history of landlord and tenant, of the mode of administering

justice to the poor, of the prices of land and labour, of the estates that are well governed by resident landlords, and of those which are treated as foreign plantations, from which the sugar is drawn to be sold, and the money expended in a distant country, without any return being made to the slave, by whose blood, and sweat, and stripes, and imprisonment, the income was raised for the foreign owner. This is the kind of history that would be developed to the view of mankind by an accurate report of Irish properties. It would shew why the tenants upon some estates are moral, prosperous, and happy, in comparison of others, who are poor, abandoned, and rebellious; and to the statesman who would govern Ireland by just laws, it would furnish no mean clue to the discovery of those facts by which he should regulate the spirit and principle of his statutes. While upon this subject, I feel pleasure in offering a well-merited compliment to two Irish landlords, with whose persons I am scarcely acquainted, and with whose political principles I am totally at variance. I mean Lords Farnham and Lorton, with the accounts of whose care and kind attention to their people (received in the progress of my travels from divers of their own tenants,) I was much edified. These are the kind of country sermons which make the heart of an Irishman leap for joy; and I cannot but wish that they were more generally preached by the landlords of Ireland in their home pulpits, as I am sure they would go far towards working as useful a reformation in the manners, as in the social circumstances of the people. But to effect these important improvements, there must be an almost constant residence of the landlord on the soil, and an established moral agency between him and his tenant, distinguished by attention, humanity, and good sense, pure from proselyting purposes, and wholly unconnected with the collection and enforcement of the rents. The valuable purposes of such an agency are noticed elsewhere in this work; and therefore I shall only say concerning them in this place, that they are so peculiarly called for by the circumstances of the peasantry and



small tenantry of Ireland, and still more eminently where the landlord is an absentee, that to do justice to the subject would require a distinct and separate volume, embodying the facts of those rural districts which have been long abandoned by the proprietors of the soil to spoliation, poverty, and crime; thus exhibiting in the broad and legible characters of their living history, the consequences of the absentee system, and the turpitude of the Irish planters, who have thus abandoned their estates to ignorance, poverty, and crime.

In such a general dereliction of public duty, (and, properly speaking, of private interest,) it affords the heart of humanity pleasure to notice such landlords as Lords Farnham and Lorton, whose services to themselves and their tenantry derive additional value from those parts of the country which they occupy, and which cannot boast, like the Downshire, Hertford, and Belfast estates, of the advantages of a long-established and wealthy manufacturing population, in the neighbourhood of a great mart of trade. Their services to a comparatively poor country, are therefore the more valuable, and furnish a more worthy object of imitation to other landlords; and besides these, there are other gentlemen who live very much at home, and spend a large proportion of their fortunes in the bosom of their country; but the contrary cases are so numerous, and their effects so fatal, that I have frequently lamented the total impossibility (in my peculiar circumstances,) of getting at all the facts that would be necessary to a complete political and moral survey of Irish properties; as through this medium, and perhaps through it alone, many lurking causes of discontent, of poverty, of idleness and rags, of emigrations to America, and of insurrections, midnight massacres, and burnings of property, would be discovered, that otherwise could never be arrived at, and made known to the statesman, whose duty it is to regulate his political and parliamentary proceedings, by the circumstances of the various countries for which he is bound to provide just and salutary laws.

The nearest approach to a history of this kind that has been made in Ireland, within our memory, was that of a statistical account (in imitation of Sir John Sinclair's, of Scotland,) of all the parishes in the country; *attempted* to be collected from the Protestant clergy some sixteen or eighteen years since, by a gentleman (equally respectable in character and station) who holds (or recently held) an employment at the castle of Dublin. This gentleman, however, found himself unable to complete the work, as many of the Protestant clergy would not undertake the troublesome, and (as some of them conceived) invidious task of exhibiting to the world the rural history of their parishes; which, in reference to education, and other subjects in which their most respectable parishioners were concerned, should be freely developed, if all the questions proposed to them in the compiler's list, were *fully* and *truly* answered. The plan, however, of appealing to the Protestant clergy *only*, in reference to the rural history of a country, inhabited by various, and violently hostile parties, was obviously defective; as few of the Protestant clergy would like to enter deep into any subject, that might, by any possibility, be considered as offensive to the feelings of the class just noticed; such as questions of rents, prices of labour, peasantry improvement institutions, and other items in which the gentry are personally concerned; and still less into questions connected with the church, such as the influence of tithes and vestry laws, upon the peace and prosperity of their parishes, &c. The consequence of this mode of proceeding was, that a large proportion of the clergy declined the office that was assigned to them; and after a few volumes of such *unconnected* parishes as the Editor could collect were published, (for his materials did not enable him to produce a symmetrical division of the work into Sees, Provinces, or Counties,) he was compelled to abandon his design.

Had it been consistent with the Editor's plan, (or perhaps, in strict propriety, we should say, with the narrow views and feelings of his patron) to have opened a correspondence at the same time, with the Roman Catholic and Presbyte-

rian clergy of the country (in which case the omissions in one *meagre report*, would have been supplied by the *corpulent fulness* in another) he would have been able, at the favourable juncture when he undertook that work, (under high official patronage) to have collected the most valuable body of Irish statistical and rural history that was ever published in the sister country. It is in fact a desideratum that has never been supplied; and which, had it been completed, would have constituted an excellent guide for English state secretaries going over to conduct that country (that is, if they would read the books thus prepared for their instruction, and which would probably amount to about twenty thick octavo volumes!) But this liberal and extended mode of procuring information from all the clergy, does not appear to have tallied with the views of Mr. Peel, the acknowledged patron of the work, who was then His Majesty's principal Secretary of State in Ireland; and to his contracted views, (though probably by the Right Hon. Gentleman himself considered *conscientious*, as the prejudices sucked in with the milk of our Alma Mater usually are) I impute the failure of the plan. This distinguished statesman, however, has since learned to make both his pride and his prejudices yield with a little more convenient pliancy to the force of circumstances; and were he to resume his former station in Ireland, it is not improbable, with his present experience, but he would take the true and successful course of procuring that body of Irish rural history which is still wanted; and which the Catholic and Presbyterian clergy of Ireland would be much more likely to communicate, than the order of clergy upon whom he exclusively depended; and he might also perhaps see the necessity of *extending* the original plan of the work, by adding a few questions to his former list, of which I have only a partial recollection at this distant period of time, and no copies of the queries connected with that work before me, to supply any defects of memory into which I may have accidentally fallen.

Having thus adverted to the part which Mr. (now Sir



Robert) Peel is supposed to have taken (and with good reason) in a plan for procuring a development of the resources of the soil of Ireland and the circumstances of its population, I shall avail myself of the opportunity which this introduction of his name affords me, to offer a brief remark upon his character as a statesman.

Deriving, as this gentleman did, whatever rank and consequence he possessed, exclusively from the walks of trade; it might be supposed that, with the sympathies and sentiments congenial to men who have received their ALL in life from the pure and unsullied source of honest industry, he would have felt a lively interest in the prosperity of British trade, and in the comfort of the working classes, to which his family originally belonged; and that with such feelings and sympathies, in aid of a good natural understanding and polished education, he would have proved himself to be the friend of the people, and the useful minister of a free and commercial nation. The event, however, (if indeed the nation looked up to him for a redress of grievances) appears to have disappointed this expectation; as this statesman of plebeian birth had scarcely entered into public life, until he proved himself to be the enemy of popular rights, and the unbending advocate of vested oppression!—his *mockery* of criminal law reform—his military remedies for the disorders of a country, whose wrongs he had neither the principle nor the spirit to redress—the corrupt and criminal indifference with which he beheld the sufferings of the Irish poor (although sprung himself, as it is commonly reported, from the very lowest of the people)—the complacency with which he regarded the boroughmongering oppressors of his country, and the bloated bishops of his church—the resistance which he gave to the Catholic claims and to parliamentary reform—the sufferings of widows and orphans, for whose family wrongs he procured from parliament no free tribunal of justice; and the little and low partialities by which it is said some portion of his private patronage had been governed; altogether produced such an impression of his character in

Ireland, as (with the exception of the reptiles who had fattened upon the spoils of the country) left very little room in the bosoms of the people of that country for the entertainment of any other sentiments towards him, than those of hatred, disapprobation, or contempt: and had this penalty been incurred in the cause of truth and justice (as has sometimes been the case) and not in that of pride, bigotry, and intolerance; instead of regarding such penalty as a brand upon his character, we would have beheld it with veneration, as a garland placed upon his brow by the hand of VIRTUE, and which would crown that character with future and imperishable fame.

The fact, however, of having lent his name and patronage to a *parochial* account of Ireland, sufficiently proves, that the rural history of this country has not been regarded by all the statesmen into whose hands our destiny has thrown us, as a useless department of research. The queries proposed to the Protestant clergy on that occasion (if our recollection has not deceived us) could not be answered without entering, more or less, into the policy by which Irish estates were governed, and the tenantry residing on them, improved or degraded in their character and circumstances, as the reputed citizens of a free and independent state; and hence, in all probability, the deep dislike which many clergymen felt to what they conceived to be, the *invidious* and *unprofitable* task of working for the statesman's information and the compiler's profit, with a reasonable prospect of procuring some inconvenience to themselves. This I heard divers of them express in substance at that time; and in these sentiments they do not appear to have been much discouraged by their bishops, who might probably have anticipated, that through the crevices of such a mighty machine of information, some bitter drops of truth relative to church property might possibly have been exuded, that as a literary *morceau* selected for "a feast of *fat things*," would not have been found to smack sweet on their Lordships' palates.

In the humble but laborious department it has been my lot

to fill, in the circle of Irish literary labour, I have had a very different task to execute from that of the compiler just noticed. I had to see the country with my own eyes; and for that purpose was obliged to travel far, and to work hard in my own person (and not by proxies) for the measure of information which I procured. I had no splendid statesman for my patron, and could not sit in the castle of Dublin at my ease, while other men sowed the seed from which I was to reap the harvest. It is true I was permitted to dedicate a work to the Duke of Sussex; and I believe I might have received *the same sort of compliment* from one or two of the Irish Viceroy's who subscribed to my researches; but I was unacquainted with the ways of Courtiers, had no taste for intrigue, and still less for dedications in which nothing could be said; and the manner in which my country had been always treated by England, whose agents I regarded as the instruments of a jealous and blasting policy, rendered false and flattering dedications totally impossible to me. A new era has now opened upon Ireland; a reformed parliament (for which I myself have long laboured) is now in full prospect; and perhaps the day is at length approaching, when an Irishman of principle, may, without doing violence to his honour or his conscience, dedicate a work on Ireland, to the minister of a British King.

Lastly. No reasonable man will deny, that specimens of the natural history and artificial improvements of a country of so much importance to England as Ireland is, may prove more or less useful, even to strangers, as exhibiting its capabilities and comparative improvements, in connexion with the causes of its ruin and decay. Nor will the limited number of these specimens be objected to by English merchants, who have little leisure for reading; who, on subjects of secondary consideration, like to receive much in a small compass, and to whom Ireland was perhaps never more than a second or third object of value, in the great scale of nations which their extended commerce has embraced.

Thus reflecting on the taste and circumstances of those



men, to whom this work is chiefly addressed, and labouring, as the author has always done, under the heavy disadvantages, in such a country as Ireland, of being forced by a sense of duty to exercise a hated censorship over the abuses of the church, the law, the factions, and the press; and over all those corporate, ecclesiastical, and popular leaders of the people, who have risen into wealth and influence, upon the ignorance, prejudices, and oppressions of a priest-ridden and plundered nation. When these disadvantages are fairly considered, and taken in connexion with the embarrassments of a once large family, and the loss of valuable properties unjustly alienated from the author, and for which he could obtain no redress from an unreformed parliament, no hearing from a British minister, and no decision in courts of law, where justice is sold at a price that amounts to a prohibition! When to these misfortunes are added, the pains and penalties inseparable from a life of perpetual exertion, frequent ill health (from damp beds and other similar accommodations), with limited pecuniary resources to meet these evils, together with narrow escapes from dangers by sea and land, from concealed enemies, from treacherous snares laid for his ruin under fair appearances, with the absence of all co-operation from the sects and parties, whose displeasure he had excited, and whose corruptions he had exposed. And when still farther to aggravate his afflictions, even his children, whom he had nobly educated, were either called away, or became rebels to their father in his declining years; and all this because he would, as a British citizen, assert his right of private judgment, discharge his duty to his country according to his conscience, and preserve his station and mental independence firm to the end. When these accumulated wrongs, with the numerous and inexplicable difficulties and embarrassments they involve, are seriously considered, in connexion with the infirmities inseparable from his advanced years, he trusts they will prove an apology for any accidental defects into which this work may have inevitably fallen; but which, notwithstanding these errors, and the

light descriptions objected to by the English reader, will, nevertheless, be found to embody a number of *important facts*, from which the statesman, and the merchant too, may derive some useful hints.

Having now made a candid communication of my views to the English enquirer concerning Ireland, I beg to direct his attention to the article recently noticed on the establishment of a local legislature in that country, as he will find it, in the form of a letter to the King, at the opening of the next chapter.

## CHAPTER II.

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EMBRACING the Author's Letter to the King upon the Irish Parliamentary Question—A Review of the Press and the Parties (including a critique upon Cobbett's Reformation, and an impartial review of the character and capabilities of O'Connell)—Poor Laws—Irish Malthusian Philosophy—The Tithe Question—The Grand Jury System—Evils in the policy by which some Irish estates are governed—and General Observations on the Soil of Ulster.

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### AUTHOR'S LETTER TO THE KING,

Upon the Irish Parliamentary Question.

SIRE,

As every good citizen is the guardian of his Prince's throne, and of his country's liberties; and as your Majesty's interests, and those of the people who support the State by their labours, are one and indivisible; and as, in an age of illumination and knowledge, nothing but just and wise institutions (pregnant with the seeds of peace and prosperity to the people) can guarantee the security of the throne; it behoves every good subject, when the public peace is menaced, by treasonable conspiracies upon the one hand, or by corrupt legislation and government upon the other, to raise his warning voice, and to approach the throne, the legitimate guardian of the people's rights, with remonstrance and petition.

In the discharge of this duty, Sire, I approach your Majesty—not as a partizan—not as a participator in the plunder of my country's property or my country's rights—not as the bigotted or priest-ridden slave of any faction—but as an Irish Protestant Briton, anxious to see the power and glory of your Majesty's throne and dominions perpetuated, by just and wise institutions.



On this ground, Sire, I am entitled to be heard—On the ground of a perfect superiority to all religious and political sectarianism—to all party purposes—and to all views of policy, which have not for their object a consolidation of the entire interests of the British empire—And lastly, I am entitled to be heard, as an Irish Briton who *knows* his country; who refused to place his signature to the base act by which that country was sold; who is anxious to see that act repealed, that his country may be united to England by better ties; and who, as he speaks from *knowledge*, having (at a sufficient distance to protect himself from defilement) studied with close attention the filthy springs, by which the machine of society has been kept moving in Ireland for the last thirty years, is therefore a competent, an impartial, and an experienced witness of the things whereof he speaks.

Sire, it is of importance to your Majesty's throne, and to the peace and security of your Majesty's dominions, that justice should be done to Ireland forthwith. That country, even under the dominion of a corrupt Parliament, was rapidly progressing, prior to the Act of Union. By that Act she was deprived of her natural protectors, of her natural income, to the amount of many millions; her manufactures, which were then in a flourishing state, are now nearly extinct; her poor, who were then fully employed, are now perishing; mendicity, which was then a partial evil, is now a national curse! These, and many other evils, which a local Legislature (travelling with the lights of the age, and with its own interests) would have arrested in their progress, by the powerful arm of domestic legislative protection, have been entailed upon this unhappy country, by that which is falsely called "the Act of UNION;" an Act pregnant with the seeds of *disunion* which injustice generates, and therefore very improperly entitled, "a UNION of the sister countries."

Sire—It is not in the nature of things, that a Union procured by bribery and corruption upon the one hand, by an act of political suicide upon the other, and by a compact

which left the weaker country undefended, (for how could its rights be protected in an assembly of six hundred, in which Ireland could not count upon the support of twenty unpurchased advocates?) How, in the name of Heaven, could such a Union as this produce an equality of rights, or indeed any other fruits than those which it has produced; the alienation of the natural protectors of the land, an expenditure of their income near the seat of power; the establishment on their properties of cold and unfeeling agents, a total silence of the loom in many districts, a total absence of all useful public works, a total neglect of four millions of acres of waste lands, with very little attention to the mineral wealth and other great commercial resources of one of the finest countries in the world, a total neglect of her impoverished and perishing peasantry, and who, as if this were not enough, have been hunted out of house and home, by the unfeeling and relentless provisions of a British Act of Parliament? Sire, your Majesty will pause and consider, whether these are visitations of affliction, under which seven millions of oppressed Irishmen can maintain the silence of a Quakers' meeting! And if, in addition to all these various sources of suffering, their exist various unproductive classes, pressing with a destructive and deadly weight upon the industry of the people, shall the deep and dying groans of a nation, labouring under these accumulated oppressions, be deemed an offence against the State? and must their *peaceful* and *constitutional* advocates be persecuted with state prosecutions, and with fine and imprisonment, for daring to complain?

Sire,—This is not a state of things to be endured much longer. In the name of God, interpose your Majesty's authority to arrest its course. Look at the mendicity institutions of this country. Look at an assembly of your Majesty's ragged and half-starved subjects in the capital of Ireland (and not merely at the carriages and liveries in Grafton-street and Stephen's-green,) and your Majesty will

perceive a living exemplification of the blessed fruits of the union of the two countries!

That Union was founded in crimes, to which no Government could lend itself without being tainted by guilt; no Constitution acknowledge without blushing for its baseness; no country subscribe to without suicide or oppression; and no Law sanction without treason against Justice! Sire—before I close these pages, I shall point out to your Majesty a better mode of uniting Ireland to England, than by an act of Union, on one side of which lies all the power to do good or evil, and on the other all the disadvantages which result from criminal neglect and corrupt legislation!—I trust I shall be able to convince your Majesty, that not Ireland only, but every branch of your Majesty's dominions, may be so incorporated with the state, as to contribute the full measure of their resources to the wealth and grandeur of the British Empire; an effect that can never be produced by a partial system of legislation, and while every country is groaning under abuses, which reformed local legislatures, acting under your Majesty's authority, and that of an enlightened congress, would infallibly remove.—This panacea for the evils of a widely extended and variously circumstanced empire, may yield for a season to military government (necessary, and only necessary, to maintain the progress of civilization, and to secure the final establishment of liberal institutions) or to coercive restraints upon free enquiry, unknown to the constitution and to common law; but the glorious cause of equal representation will finally prevail, for it corresponds with experience, with the reason of the age, and with the lights which God is daily pouring upon the eye-ball of the nations.

The scriptures abound with proofs of God's hatred of oppression; of the mighty miracles he has wrought to deliver his people from the authority of tyrants; of the phials of his indignation poured out upon whole nations, on account of their wicked systems of religion, and their oppressive



systems of civil policy.—Religion, alas! that which is falsely so called, exhibits the Almighty to the poor and the oppressed as an object of terror—but although he hates deeds of wickedness, and will punish them, he is a Being of perfect love, and the operations of his Providence clearly prove that, however long he may bear with the powers of darkness which oppose the manifestations of his mercy to mankind, he will finally make them the trophies of his victory, both in the kingdoms of this world, and in the life which is to come!

Sire,—the fiat of political regeneration has gone forth from a higher court than that of your Majesty's dominions—It was echoed from heaven when the new world was founded by European persecutions. It reached England when Penn pleaded in its courts of justice, against the monstrous wickedness of the English penal code.—It reached France, when the philosophers of that country first laid their hand upon the ecclesiastical impostures which oppressed it (I plead not for the infidelity of these philosophers; God permitted it, but he made their intelligence and their love of liberty his instruments; and still more, he gave them intelligence and the love of liberty for that special purpose.)—It reached America, when Britain overstepped the legitimate boundaries of her power, and Washington and La Fayette first fought in the ranks of liberty.—It has reached various states of Europe, and it will finally reach them all.—Every good man; every lover of his species, wishes that this salvation may be wrought out by moral and not by military means.—Every Christian prays for its peaceful celebration; but its achievement is in higher hands, and we may rest assured that a God of mercy and goodness will not resort to the last extremity, until all the means of conviction with which he has supplied tyrants, have been trampled under foot.—Happy are those princes, and they only, who, having carefully studied their duty in the school of Providence, are resolved to conform their practice to the lessons which they have there received.

Sire,—in addressing this letter to your Majesty, I make no apology for the humility of my rank, nor for the obscurity of my name; more particularly as I am much more indebted to the corruptions of British law for these misfortunes (if misfortunes they are) than to the accidents of my birth, or the poverty of my genius.—Poor as these have been, they would have proved sufficient for the purposes of a patriot, long and ardently devoted to the interests of his country and kind, had the fortunes of my family, now partly, as I have heard, in the possession of your Majesty, descended to their rightful heir—but having been defrauded of these in early life, and finding no tribunal in these countries to which injured innocence can obtain a free and unpurchased access, I have been compelled to give vent to the zeal of my heart for the improvement of my country, in those lowly walks of moral and political literature, which the magnanimity of British ministers has left open to the neglected or *pillaged* sons of genius, very justly concluding that, under the operations of the stamp act, the poison of these vermin can scarcely touch the colossal statue of corruption, and that it would be utterly beneath the dignity of a great power to trample them under foot, (as in the cases of Cobbett, Hone, and Wooller, under the pious administration of the late Castlereagh) or even to cast a look upon their weak and innoxious ebullitions.

Thus tolerated, by the obscurity of my name and rank, to publish TRUTHS, from which the powerful literary tribunals of the empire would be restrained by a due attention to their interests; and being peculiarly well qualified by my knowledge of my own country, and by my total disconnection with its sects and factions, to submit to your Majesty a few plain practical reflections upon the great question of a Repeal of the legislative Union between the two countries, which is now pending; I trust if this letter should have the honour of meeting your Majesty's eye, that it may prove the humble instrument of placing that great question fairly before it—pure from the dregs of faction, upon the one hand—and

free from all those artificial embellishments of human learning, by which truth is too frequently obscured, upon the other.

In entering upon a review of this great question, I shall first briefly notice the broad political foundations upon which the temple of British prosperity should be built, in the present extended and diversified circumstances of the British empire.—Secondly, point out a few of the leading objections that have been urged against the re-establishment of a parliament in Ireland.—Thirdly, endeavour to meet those objections.—Fourthly, I shall endeavour to prove, that an Irish parliament, upon reformed principles, would promote the prosperity of both countries, and tend to a consolidation of the interests of the empire—and shall conclude the whole of my reflections with an important fact, namely, that the most powerful obstacle to the regeneration of nations, is to be found in those legions of corruption which surround the thrones of princes, and who, by multiplying amusements for the royal eye, and dazzling it with brilliant deceptions, divert its attention from the miseries produced by their own corrupt measures, or criminal negligence of duty; until at length the heavings of discontent produced by their accumulated oppressions, becoming stronger and stronger, those political convulsions are produced which shake the foundations of their power, and sometimes terminate in bloody conflicts, in the overthrow of dynasties, and in great moral and political revolutions!

It is, Sire, to protect your Majesty's throne and dominions from these *final* effects of mislegislation and misgovernment, (and the heavings of the political terraquea that surrounds us, are not altogether destitute of moral admonition) that the humble writer of this letter presumes to suggest to your Majesty, that circumstanced as the British empire now is, it is totally impossible that any partial system of legislation should be able to meet its numerous and varied wants; and that, in order to preserve the unity of the empire, by an effectual purgation of every province from the evils which



peculiarly oppress it, it is necessary that each such province should have its own local parliament, and that an imperial congress, composed of deputies from all these local legislatures, should meet every third or fourth year in London, to transact the general business of the state, and to correct the abuses of the local parliaments, when, by any accident or oversight, they had abused their functions, and overstepped the proper boundaries of their power.

Having thus briefly noticed the broad foundation, upon which alone the temple of moral and political prosperity can be built and perpetuated, in an empire so widely extended, and so variously circumstanced as that of Great Britain, (a principle *partially* recognized by the British Government, in the local parliaments of Canada and Jamaica,) I shall not enter deeply (however it might promote my object) into the abuses complained of in divers colonies, and particularly those under which one hundred millions of British subjects are groaning in India, (where, if public report is to be credited, the East India Company derive no mean revenue, from the murders and idolatrous sacrifices of the Hindoo superstition, to which divers of their officers contribute, in the character of Priests, or attendants upon the annual exhibitions, of the idol Jugger-naut!) but shall proceed to the more immediate object of this letter, that of a closer union of Ireland with England, by the establishment of a domestic parliament in the former country, upon true British foundations.

And first, I am to notice a few of the leading objections that have been urged against this measure, by the advocates of the act of Union, among which, a question affecting the succession to the throne has been started, and by the writer of this objection, was, no doubt, supposed to be unanswerable.—“If the Princess Victoria,” said the objector, “were to embrace the Roman Catholic religion, while seated on the throne of England, this offence, according to the law of England, would be punished by deposition. In such a circumstance as this, would an Irish parliament, composed

of a majority of Catholics, confirm the deposition, or disannul it? Undoubtedly they would do the latter; for they had sworn allegiance to the Queen, and would not violate that allegiance for an offence against the law, which they would deem to be a duty paramount to all law. Their allegiance to the Queen, would therefore be confirmed and proclaimed, and in consequence thereof, a war would be declared between the two countries."

To all this I have merely to reply, that in the system of representation which I advocate, no change could take place in the fundamental laws of the empire, without the concurrence of the three estates; and no local parliament, in common sense, could have jurisdiction in such a question as that which the objector has mooted; neither in any question of foreign policy, nor in any other affecting the general interests of the empire. To the entertainment of any question, affecting the fundamental laws of the empire and its general interests, the Imperial Congress (composed of deputies from all the local legislatures) would alone be competent; and as this Congress, notwithstanding Catholic Canada and Catholic Ireland, would have a large majority of Protestant deputies, neither the law of succession as it now stands, nor the unity of the empire, would be in the least endangered. The *Times*, therefore, may pull down his cap, for cunning as that serpent is, he will find an Irishman to answer him. Pleading, as I do, the cause of Ireland, in the unity of the British empire, every such objection as that which the *Times* has mooted, vanishes into thin air. Justice to Ireland is compatible with the paramount duty of justice to the empire; and in attempting to promote the interests of the whole, that man must be a wretched politician, and miserably devoid of intellect, who finds it necessary to sacrifice a part! As well might he think of sacrificing Coventry to Lichfield, or Liverpool to London, as Ireland to England. Their interests are one and indivisible—nature has determined their connexion, and Providence has confirmed it by a thousand ties. There is no necessity, there-

fore, for the doctrine of separation, nor for starting fanciful questions, calculated to generate a bad feeling between the two countries. The policy that stabs Ireland endangers England, and if persevered in, will finally pierce her to the heart. Let England, therefore, look to this in due time, and by another great act of justice, that of conceding to Ireland a Parliament for the regulation of her own internal concerns, bind her to the heart of England, in a unity of interest and of amity, that shall perish only when Britain sinks into incurable corruption, and ceases to be a nation among the empires of the earth.

Secondly. It has been suggested, that if her Parliament were restored to Ireland, the Protestant interest and the Protestant church would perish under a Catholic ascendancy—to which I reply, IMPOSSIBLE, if the House of Peers (one hundred and fourteen Protestants to six Catholics) did its duty, and if the whole property (chattel as well as freehold) and intelligence of the land were represented, as undoubtedly they ought. Of the entire knowledge and property of Ireland, a very large proportion is still truly Protestant. In the march of education and letters, which will always keep pace with the march of property and freedom, this number would rapidly increase (*vide* France and other countries, where freedom is on her march). These Protestants would never consent, and never ought, to an extinction of their church, by an act of political despotism on the part of their Catholic countrymen (whom I cheerfully absolve, whatever my timid Protestant brethren may think, from the entertainment of any such malevolent design). Notwithstanding, I believe a great majority of the Protestant interest would subscribe, and undoubtedly ought, to an appropriation of the property of the church, better calculated to serve the morals of her clergy, to promote the religious influence of the church itself, and to advance the general interests of Ireland, than that unequal, and I was going to say, iniquitous system of appropriation which now prevails.



A check, and a sufficiently powerful check, would always be placed by the Protestant interest of Ireland, and by the general power of the State, upon Popish intrigue and ambition. In the new and reformed state of society which I contemplate, religious distinctions of an acrimonious character would be lost, and very happily lost indeed, in the much better and more endearing relations of kindred and country, in the equality of political rights, and even of party distinctions, in the removal of all well grounded complaints, by even-handed justice, in the spirit of toleration which true knowledge produces, and above all, in the triumph of Christian charity over that vile and ignorant bigotry, of which corrupt laws and unequal government, with the jealousies, distinctions, and acts of injustice which they generate, are the prolific parents, and the never ending attendants.

The people, when properly enlightened, would not sell their liberties and their country, for the purpose of supporting priestcraft and the pope. The State would provide, as in France, for all the clergy in the land, and leave the creeds and formularies of sects to support themselves by their own proper evidence, or to sink into contempt by their lies and impostures, which have always a reference to one great end, the subjugation of the human mind, as the only base upon which the temple of ecclesiastical property and power can be permanently established.

In such a state of things as this, neither the Catholic nor Protestant intelligence of Ireland would permit themselves to be wheedled out of their civil rights, by pompous religious villanies, whether Protestant or Popish; well knowing that by impostures of this kind, Christian nations have been too long and deeply persecuted and plundered of their properties and civil rights; and therefore they would leave the clergy to transact their own proper business, but they would give them no power in the State: and I need not remark with what joy so just an arrangement would be hailed by the lovers of social order, and particularly by those Christians who regard the visible forms of religion, merely as a pruden-

tial institution, intended for the instruction and edification of the church; but who, in reference to the scheme of redemption for the salvation of man, believing it was planned, executed, and rendered perfect, by the arm of omnipotent love, and that angels can neither add to nor take from it, are *unhappily* possessed of an opinion, that standing in such a perfect state, it needs not the aids of human tinkering, or ghostly imposture, to accomplish its objects.

The lower classes in Ireland, as in all other countries, are no doubt, to a certain extent (both Protestant and Catholic), the dupes of their respective prejudices, being (God help them) but little acquainted with the political springs of those things which they hold most sacred—neither do they understand the science of metaphysics (a term invented to describe CAUSES, which are seen only through their EFFECTS, and) upon which human learning, in its highest state of perfection, can shed but partial light; but this inevitable ignorance of the great mass of our population could do no mischief to the State, so long as the elective franchise were confined to the knowledge and property of the country, and the undue influence of priests and landlords excluded, by those limitations to the elective franchise, which are distinctly laid down in a succeeding section of this Letter. The powers of election being thus vested where they ought to be, that is, in the knowledge and property of the country, those men would be sent into parliament, without reference to religious distinctions, who were best qualified to promote the peace and prosperity of Ireland; and under the influence of this system, a period of twenty years would scarcely elapse, until (here as in England, in Paris, and in parts of Germany,) if you wanted to know the creed of an intelligent Irishman, you would hunt for it in vain, unless perchance you caught him in his chapel, and even then you might be somewhat at a loss: as it is now a well known fact, that every man who goes to worship his God in a certain house, does not believe all the stories that are told

him there; but imagining it to be the best thing that is going in his neighbourhood, he attends for his own edification, the good order of his family, and for public example; and if *closely* questioned upon the point, the answer, perhaps, of every five intelligent Irishmen out of ten would be, “farther than this, deponent saith not.” Those Protestants, therefore, who anticipate the evils to be apprehended from a Popish ascendancy in an Irish Parliament, either know not the checks which are fairly and strongly laid down in this Letter, or wilfully overlook them: whether from inveterate prejudice, or from a wish to profit by the divisions of the empire, I shall not say. With reference to those who could entertain a wish so base, as that of perpetuating discord, for the purpose of deriving fortune or distinction from the party to whose prejudices or interests they minister, I shall say nothing; but there is a class of truly well disposed Protestants, who being immovably convinced of the religious intolerance of the Romish church, and knowing that, when religious liberty is successfully invaded, civil liberty will fall, apprehend the most dangerous results to the Protestant interest of Ireland, and to freedom herself, from a restoration of the forty shilling franchise, of which the Catholic leaders have generally avowed themselves the advocates and defenders. Knowing the abuses of that franchise as I know them, I think it my duty to enter my solemn protest against the restoration of that law; and I say to my Catholic countrymen, who are anxious to obtain the confidence and co-operation of their Protestant brethren, in the achievement of a great national benefit. Abandon your claim to a restoration of that franchise; sacrifice something even of your just rights to the fears of your honest neighbours—prove to them by your WORKS, that your professions of friendship are sincere—for otherwise, however lofty your words may be, they will believe that you have ulterior views upon their liberty; and all that you can say upon that subject, while you hold what they believe to be the engine of their slavery in your hand, will avail



nothing. I know their sentiments—you do not know them quite so well; and I can assure you, that in thus advertising you of their opinions, I am not the echo of my own fears only, but of those of a large proportion of the most exemplary Protestants in the middle walks of life in Ireland: and even suppose those fears to be ill-founded, it is great and manly to yield to them for the sake of peace; by thus acting you will gain upon their confidence and good opinion, and, with their assistance, but not without it, you will be able to build that temple of domestic legislation, without which, Ireland, though nominally incorporated with the State, will continue to be a poor and impoverished province.

In reference to the forty shilling franchise, I was too long the spectator of the abuses of that law, and am too much the friend of the Irish peasant, to wish to see him reinstated between those galling fires of his landlord and his priest, by which he was so deeply injured in the last campaign. It is true, he fought nobly in the cause of emancipation, and assisted to achieve a victory for men, who by their parliamentary conduct have proved themselves worthy of the station to which their country has advanced them;—but as peace and protection are needful to the Irish peasant, and as an improvement in his physical condition would prove much more conducive to the interests of his family, and to his own future advancement, than the enjoyment of political power; and as it appears to me to be quite time enough for a man to participate in the latter, when he has something in the shape of property to protect; or when he has advanced to that stage of knowledge and independence, in which he can exercise an unbiassed judgment on public affairs; I am therefore conscientiously averse from the restoration of a law, pregnant with the seeds of mischief to the humble labourer, who, if he should obey his priest, will be menaced with temporal destruction by his landlord, and if he obey his landlord, will be covered with *spiritual* maledictions by his priest!—This system might do while the Catholics were

fighting for liberty ; but now that they are quietly seated in the temple of the constitution, the tools of their former warfare should be given up.—Thus would they acquire the confidence of their Protestant brethren—thus would they give the lie to the frequent imputations of their political enemies, who assert that their only motive for conciliating the Protestant interest, is to make it a stepping-stone to their ascendancy in the state—and thus would they redeem their own repeated and solemn assurances, that in looking, first for emancipation, and secondly for a repeal of the act of Union, they seek no ascendancy of power at home, and have no ulterior views subversive of the unity and integrity of the British empire.

This guard being placed upon a new and reformed parliament in Ireland, the most timid and scrupulous Protestant need not apprehend an undue ascendancy of Catholicism in the constitution of that house ; but if the Catholic gentlemen who advocate the doctrine of Reform and Repeal, should (in a country where the entire peasantry are of their own persuasion) make universal suffrage, or the forty shilling franchise, a *sine qua non* of the national benefits which they seek, I could not then undertake to remove the scruples which timid Protestants entertain relative to the sincerity of their public disclaimers of ascendancy, and of inviolable attachment to the integrity of the empire.)

A third objection has been raised against the restoration to Ireland of her local parliament, on the ground of that venality and corruption, of which her ancient legislature was so publicly and generally accused ; and on the wicked and immoral policy of forcing the British government into the resumption of that system of bribery and intrigue, by which alone they could render the acts of an Irish parliament tributary to their views.

To all this I have merely to reply, that the Babel of confusion erected upon an inadequate system of representative government (productive, as all inadequate systems must necessarily be, of crime and disorder) would fall prostrate

before the just and comprehensive system of government for which I plead, even as the idol Dagon fell prostrate upon his face before the ark of God.

Let the wise foundations of universal justice, according to the diversified circumstances of the various provinces of the empire, be once laid upon the broad and immutable base of the British constitution of three estates, by reformed local parliaments, under one crown and one congress; and the necessity of ministerial tampering with any of these local parliaments would cease. The just and liberal laws by which the British empire should be connected and governed, being defined and settled by a congress of deputies from all the countries interested in the British compact; and the local parliaments of the empire being empowered to legislate for their respective districts within the broad imperial circle drawn by that congress around their power, what necessity could exist for ministerial tampering with the local legislatures, when these legislatures would have no jurisdiction in any question affecting the fundamental laws and general interests of the empire, and that an act of the imperial congress only could give the authority of law to any measure of the minister?—And even if a British minister should think it necessary to tamper with the leading men of the local legislatures, for the purpose of carrying some favourite measure through the imperial congress, he would not find it so easy to bend them to his purpose under a reformed system, as when he made his descent upon the Irish House of Commons, with the corruptions of the constitution in full blow, with the treasury of England upon his back, and when Ireland had scarcely recovered from the wounds of a civil war. If the object indeed were to establish a parliament in Ireland totally independent of a British imperial congress, some ground for this objection might be found, and even some apprehension entertained of a final separation of the two countries; but drawn together, as all the members of the empire would be, to the crown and imperial congress as their common centre, the necessity of tampering with



the Irish parliament would cease; Ireland would rapidly advance in internal improvement, and that which the Union, falsely so called, has failed in achieving, this would effectually complete—a second moral and political incorporation of the two countries.

As the government of the British empire is now constituted, dependent upon one body of men for the transaction of its entire concerns (concerns that are seldom transacted well, either for the whole or for any part of its extensive territory,)\* it is quite possible that the views of two inde-

\* On this subject we beg to quote the following remarks of Sir John Sinclair, (the Scotch statician) in a letter addressed by him to Sir Robert Peel; as also an extract from the Pilot newspaper of Dublin, (of the truth or falsehood of whose contents, those persons only can be judges who are in the habit of attending the debates in parliament, which we are not.) Sir John observes—

“Great Britain and Ireland united, is as large an empire as any government can manage with advantage to its subjects; and if they are closely united, there is no country, or even confederacy of states, that could venture to attack us with the least prospect of effecting any material mischief.

“It may be contended that it is desirable to have some *outlets* both for our surplus population and for commercial purposes: but even were that admitted, surely our great objects ought to be security and improvement at home, and not a reliance on distant possessions for our prosperity. The absurdity of a contrary system was proved when our North American colonies became independent. It was then predicted that the ‘*Sun of England was for ever set;*’ whereas we were never so powerful as since the separation. What a fortunate event, therefore, was the emancipation of America. How could we have governed the thirteen United States, when we cannot advantageously manage those American provinces which remain in our possession?

“It is now universally admitted, that from the increasing transactions in parliament, matters cannot any longer continue on their present strange footing. The House of Commons is quite oppressed with business of all descriptions; not only public and private, foreign and domestic, but with the concerns of the vast empire in the East (containing, it is said, more than one hundred millions of inhabitants), and above thirty Colonies, scattered over Europe, Asia, Africa, and America. Such an empire cannot go on prosperously. It is impossible, in the nature of things, that any branch of public business can be properly conducted, while the time of the House is occupied with such an endless variety of matters, and when a single day can hardly be procured to bring forward questions of the greatest domestic importance. In the House every thing is done amidst confusion and bustle; bills are hurried through their most important stages, in hopes of getting improvements

pendent legislatures might differ on some points of essential importance to the unity and prosperity of the state.—In such cases the public would have to look to the good feeling of those independent bodies, and to their mutual concessions to the reasonable claims of each other, for the preservation of the unity and integrity of the empire; but although the most sanguine views that could be entertained of this experiment might be realized, I should, for my own part, much rather see (as I am not fond of running any chances in a game of this nature) the temple of British unity and power,

effected in some of the subsequent steps of the procedure; but reliance is much oftener placed on amendments to be introduced in the course of some future session of parliament.—P. 7.

“I do not think that the British House of Commons would be prevailed upon to give up any part of its privileges to any body of men that was not in some measure a part of itself, *and elected by the people*. My plan, therefore, is, that there shall be a *Second Chamber* of the *House of Commons*, chosen in the same manner as the First Chamber, consisting of a number not exceeding two hundred members, and that to a Chamber thus constituted, ‘*the decision of all private bills and of all contested elections shall be delegated.*’”

*Extract of a Letter from a London Correspondent of the Pilot Newspaper, copied from the Dublin Morning Register of February 9, 1832.*

“‘Have you been ever in the House of Commons?’ ‘Have you ever been present at a debate?’ ‘Do you know how the affairs of millions are conducted there?’—if not, learn, and you will, like me, be surprised that the people have not long—long since reformed the house; you would expect a number of sensible men, who had the experience of years, proceeding to manage the affairs of the nation with the same attention as persons manage their own private concerns;—it is no such thing; you see there many boys, who, instead of being members of parliament, should not be let loose from the nursery; and you see some old men hobbling in, who should, at their time of life, be sent back to the charge of nurses; you see my Lord Althorp and Lord J. Russell, two of the worst speakers I ever heard, endeavouring to carry the machinery of the bill through the house, and *preserve their seats as his Majesty's servants*. You find Peel, Sugden, and Co. striving to push them from their seats, not by argument, but by the trickery and chicanery of debate. In fact, you find the entire machinery to be an endeavour *to keep in place, and to get into place*. As for the discharge of public business or public duty, you will see none of it there! The debate was on the mode of ascertaining the value of the tenement out of which the ten pound franchise was to be had. This occupied the house from six to past one. During the debate I was anxious to discover whether the members knew what was going on,

erected on the sure foundations of reformed local parliaments under one crown and one congress, than upon the accidental good feeling of independent legislatures (this good feeling being an admirable cement wherewith to unite the various

and there happened to be a grave old Tory, with his back to the body of the house, and looking at those under the gallery for a considerable time. Sugden was then half an hour on his legs. I plucked up a little Irish effrontery and said to the member, Can you inform me on what side of the question is that gentleman arguing? Sure I can't tell, was the answer. He seems to be very much in earnest, said I, and I should really be obliged to you if you could let me know who he is? Whereupon the member turned round and exclaimed, oh! that's Mr. Sugden. I see now, Sir, he is arguing against the ministry. You are not convinced, Sir, by his arguments on the subject? Oh! God bless your soul, I never listen to these arguments. I go with my party. I vote in the opposition at present. Judge how business is carried on, from this anecdote. About ten o'clock you find the members become dozy, after going in and out frequently. I saw the member for Louth, Sheil, very near the entrance to the house, on his return, after being out for a considerable time. I subsequently had a conversation with him. He was lively, and, as usual, pleasingly communicative, and in good spirits. He is very constant in his attendance in the house. You find all the members, on their re-entrance to the house, complain of the great oppression from want of ventilation. I should think the oppression proceeds from other causes. My friend and self were determined to see the rising. Well, what think you, half the members were gone home to bed, and four-fifths of the remainder were fast asleep on the benches. I found my friend grow fidgety; he muttered occasionally—I caught the words—they were—'This won't—this can't last; the funds, they will be all blown up!' This was good preparation of mind for a fundholder, just as the house was resolving itself into a committee of supply; when lo! we heard the Chairman speak of granting to his Majesty twenty-five millions \* for some purpose or other, and one hundred and eighty-six thousand, respecting the building of churches; both passed without a word. Joseph Hume was fast asleep; my friend groaned; and if you can imagine the countenance of Sheil, when asked by Lawless at the election of Meath for the £500, as described by your friend Ford in his evidence, you can have a faint idea of the countenance and manner of my friend. His first expressions were—'The bubble's burst; the funds, who would keep money in them; look at the guardians of public property!' Thus ended my visit to the House of Commons, and I left, saying, if the business of England is so little attended to, and so badly managed, surely the Irish cannot expect such a house will ever pay the slightest regard to the affairs of their impoverished country."

\* This must be a gross error of the press; but we hope not a wilful lie—it tends, however, to throw the gloom of *falschood* upon the whole picture.



sections of the temple of British liberty, but still no substitute for the law and the constitution.) Hence I plead, and conscientiously plead, for the establishment of a system which shall confine the agitation of all great questions of state to an imperial congress, and which shall appoint local parliaments, to manage the local concerns of their own districts; and as the people would be the source of the local legislatures, and these latter of the imperial congress, the laws by which the whole empire would be governed, would emanate from the people, and no branch of the empire would have just reason to complain, if its representatives did their duty; and if otherwise, under the operation of triennial parliaments, they could be soon dismissed. Thus would I unite Ireland to England.—Thus would I restore her absentee lords, and the several millions of British currency which they have annually drained from their exhausted country, since that called “the act of Union” made England the theatre of their parliamentary career, and, as a necessary consequence, the scene of their residence and pleasures.

It remains now that I should point out the nature of that reform in the Commons house of parliament, and in the system of election, by which I conceive Ireland would be protected from venality, and from all dangerous excesses; and this I shall endeavour to do in a few words.

First, Triennial Parliaments, as they were enjoyed by England in the reign of William III.—Secondly, Vote by Ballot.—Thirdly, The representation of all populous towns, with a vote to all inhabitants paying a certain rent.—Fourthly, A reduction in the property qualification of a Representative.—Fifthly, The £10 freehold franchise as it now stands.—Sixthly, The extension of that franchise to chattel property of £100 and upwards; and, Lastly, To all the liberal and literary professions, without any property qualification whatever, they being obviously the best qualified of any classes in society to exercise their franchise for the public good; contributing also more largely to the

expenses of the State, by the excisable commodities which they consume, than any similar number of electors of small freeholds, and by their knowledge and talents, to the education of the rising generation, and to the irradiation of the public mind, and consequently to the strength and power of a free State, than all the other classes of society put together; and yet, strange to say, the privilege which for so many years was conceded to the naked peasantry of Ireland (in order to serve the electioneering purposes of their masters), has been withheld from the literary professions, by what in common parlance is called a liberal Government!!!

With a parliament thus constituted, and under a congress of the ablest men in the British Empire, no capital or cardinal abuse could long remain uncorrected, particularly in an age of general information, with the schoolmaster abroad, and the press at home, to keep that parliament to its duties.

In the above outline of Reform I have made no allusion to the abuses of the law department (those shameful abuses, by which families are ruined, and justice turned into derision at her own temple gates,) nor to the corruptions in any other department of our social system, it being the proper office of the legislature to correct these abuses; and knowing that a reformed parliament could not sit for twelve months in either country, without laying their hand vigorously to the plough of reformation, and rooting out those rank weeds from the political soil of Britain (land of the brave, land of the fair, what a pity that it should be the land of corruption)—that have choked the good seed, and blasted those flattering prospects of a rich harvest, that were held out to her children by the Bill of Rights, and by the Protestant Reformation and Revolution!

The fourth and last objection (and in reference to the country at large, the least capable of proof that has been yet advanced) to the restoration of our local legislature, is that of the great advantages we have derived from British commercial connection, by the Act of Union.

It cannot be expected that in a limited article like this, I should enter into an exact debtor and creditor account between England and Ireland for the last thirty years; but if the insolvent and bankrupt calendars within that period be carefully compared with the preceding thirty years, when Ireland basked under the shade of a domestic legislature (imperfect as that legislature was)—if the state of our linen and woollen manufactures, both in a highly flourishing condition at the commencement of that hapless Act, and for some time after—if the state of the manufacturing population of Dublin, of the houses of lunacy and mendicity, of the spectacles of misery in the public streets, the inmates of the public hospitals, and other sure tests of the influence of a political system upon the state of a country, including the unemployed and starving state of the peasantry in the rural districts (many of whom, with their wives and children, have been turned adrift upon the world by the subletting Act)—If all these put together, may be regarded as any evidence of the advantages which Ireland has derived from that famous Act, why then we cannot be much at a loss for a true conclusion; and if any man of common sense, and of common honesty, who knows Ireland now, and who knew her as well as I did before that Act took place, will place his hand upon his breast, and say, that these evils, with a domestic legislature, would have risen to their present height, I should of course believe that he spoke as he thought, but would infer that his intercourse with the country had been very partial.

Truth, however, compels me to say (and in all my public labours it has been the wish of my heart to yield obedience to her injunctions,) that many of my poorer country folk, though not all, might, by temperance and a strict economy, have mitigated the hardships of their low condition. With warm feelings, and a generosity of heart that is seldom equalled, they are, too frequently, bad economists, and thoughtless of the future. They act up indeed to the *letter* of that scripture precept, “take no thought for the morrow.”



Their attachment to ardent spirits is another source of their misfortunes, and I confess I cannot but wish (although I would not myself contribute by *unfair* means to a reduction of your Majesty's revenue,) that the Exchequer derived a something less from their consumption of this ardent fluid, however necessary and useful it may prove at certain times, in this cold and humid climate. The practicability of such a change in the habits of the Irish peasantry, was evinced not long since on a great political occasion; and as the possibility of its accomplishment is hence evident, I sincerely wish that the influence by which alone that change could be effected, may be once more set in motion, and steadily exerted, until temperance shall become a characteristic virtue of the nation.

It is fair also to acknowledge, that the whole amount of the decline of our staple trade (the linen manufacture) is not imputable to the act of Union—this fabric, so infinitely superior in strength and duration to goods manufactured of cotton wool, was nevertheless put down by an all prevalent argument in times of public distress—the cheapness of the latter; and to the consumer who could procure no better, it was all one, whether they were manufactured here or in the sister country. Whether an Irish parliament would have been able by legislative protection to have maintained the competition of the linen manufacture with the cotton and capital of England, appears extremely doubtful; but certainly, if any trade produced by the ingenuity of man had a claim (not only on the ground of its commercial, but of its amazing moral influence upon the population of Ulster) to artificial support, it was this; for by it, from the sowing of the flax to the bleaching of the linen, the entire population were employed—from it they drew, not only the sources of plenty but of wealth; and by it a most pleasant and profitable intercourse was maintained between all the ranks and classes of society, from the landlord to the weaver on his loom; and the labours of the latter being blended with the labours of the field; the healthiest, the most cleanly, the most

industrious, the most prosperous, and the most independent peasantry that ever the world produced, was to be found in that Province.—The scene, however, in most parts of that once flourishing district, has experienced an awful revolution—England has got possession, not only of our woollen trade, but of a large proportion of our linen also ; although the latter (upon giving up the former) had been conceded to Ireland, and placed under strong protection, by a solemn compact.—Indeed England has been too cunning and too strong for Ireland at all times—in every bargain she labours hard to keep the best handle to herself ; and in proportion as she makes her neighbour weak, she makes herself strong by progressive infringements.—This to be sure is the usual course of trade, but it is a policy perhaps better suited to a distant colony than to a country bordering on our own, and irresistibly pressing upon our resources, by the wants of an overwhelming population.—Under such circumstances I am convinced, as I am of the truth of my existence, that so powerful a remedial measure could not be devised by England for her own relief, as that of *compelling* Ireland to legislate on all her own local concerns, by which means the latter country would be enabled to draw forth her resources, give full employment to her people, and contribute much more largely to the expenses of the state, than it is possible for her to do, borne down as she now is by an unemployed and rapidly increasing population, with the life exhausting drain of absenteeism upon all her resources ; and lastly, England would rid herself of a vast deal of trouble, which the management of Irish affairs now gives her.

With regard to the absentee system, that conspicuous and ruinous result of the act of Union ; it is somewhat curious that the London journalists who are perpetually abusing us for calling for a repeal of that act, should comically remind us of all those great corn and other provision exports which we send to England, in order to put the amount into the pockets of the absentee landlords, as if we derived any benefit whatever from these exports.—The corn merchant, holding

over for a good market, may profit; but the cultivator of the soil, who must sell when his rent is due, and who cannot taste a morsel of the bread, the butter, or the pork, which he raises by his industry, how does he profit? Eh! Cockney, wilt thou answer that?—If thou art a Cockney Editor, thou may indeed come in for a part of the plunder of our country; of that income of our land which the absentee distributes among thee and thy neighbours; but although it may be natural enough for thee to bark and snarl, when we seek to get back that bread of our country which thou devour'st, still it is too bad for thee to add insult to injury, by reminding us of our exports! might they not as well be buried in the sea, and the throats of our beef cows cut upon the passage, as to be sent to absentee Landlords, who fill thy hungry craw, and give us nothing in return for the produce of our labours, but the bitters of thy goose quill?

If the seven millions annually (amounting to two hundred and ten millions in thirty years) thus and otherwise alienated from Ireland, without yielding to her any equivalent advantage in return—if these, with the abuses of the law and of the church property (which a reformed parliament would have corrected)—if expensive military and police establishments (necessary at all times on a moderate scale of expense to the purposes of good government, but conducted on a most extravagant scale of expense under the existing system) in aid of those gagging bills to which the Protestants of Ireland have been compelled to submit, as the price of Roman Catholic emancipation. If these are the gifts which England, by her legislative union and other acts of her government, have conferred upon our country, we cannot much boast of the political or commercial advantages that we have derived from her connexion, notwithstanding a certain proportion of our merchants (and let these be compared with the number of the broken and the bankrupt) may have derived some peculiar advantages from their intercourse with a country, whose men of business are distinguished in every quarter of the globe, by those generous



virtues and manly enterprising qualities, which belong to the first commercial nation in the world. But these instances of good fortune are too partial to be erected into an argument in favour of the Legislative Union. Had that Union never taken place, the benefits of our intercourse with England would have been much more general and extensive, as the two hundred and ten millions extracted from Ireland by that baneful measure, would have formed a capital that would have enabled us to have dealt much more largely with the sister country; and from my own knowledge I can assert, that Ireland, previous to the Union, flourished in almost every department of her inland trade, that every guinea embarked in business produced nearly as much profit as three do now, (the whole of this reduction however not being exclusively imputable to the Union, but to it in connexion with other causes) that Mendicity, which was then a partial evil, is now a general curse; and although it is said that a Mr. O'Callaghan (having perhaps largely profited by the sale of pork to England) asserted, in the House of Commons, that no respectable man in Ireland would advocate a Repeal of the Legislative Union, yet there is the strongest presumptive proof that the fat of this gentleman's bacon had so deeply injured his vision, that he could not distinguish between the respectable and disrespectable classes of his countrymen; for there are hundreds of thousands of respectable Irishmen (if that term may be conceded to any who do not deal in pork) that are now ardently longing for the restoration of that Parliament, by which alone our absentee Lords, and the income of our soil, can be restored to the people who produce the latter by their labour.

Sire—a parliament is to a country, what the sun is to the solar system—the source of light and heat, and the centre of attraction to the surrounding planets. We beseech you, therefore, Sire, as an injured nation to whom your Majesty is dear, cause that sun of our prosperity to be restored to us, of which we have been deprived, by the Act of Union; that

centre of attraction to our absent planets, of which Ireland has been deprived, by a course of treachery upon the one hand, and of political suicide upon the other, to which no law bottomed in justice, and no constitution founded in liberty could be a legal partner.

Take the sun from the system of the universe, and only conceive, Sire, what the inhabitants of this planet (if in its absence they could indeed live) would say to Mr. O'Callaghan, the pork philosopher, if he came to reason with them upon the advantages of its establishment in another and more distant system. Undoubtedly if it were possible for the inhabitants of the earth to live in the absence of the sun, they would answer the philosopher of pork, by casting his bacon overboard, to reason with the darkness of the deep abyss to which they had so deservedly consigned it.

As well might the enemies of Ireland think of sending Davy the tailor on his lap-board to the moon, to snuff out that planet with his shears, and to extinguish the seven stars with his thimble, as to put an extinguisher upon a question which has its origin in the necessities of a nation. As well might they think of driving old Ocean to his source, as of driving back eight millions of people into their primitive nothingness; but between this alternative, and the establishment of a local legislature for the redress of grievances in Ireland, I can see no medium; for the restoration of her parliament is not a question of sedition (as the London press falsely asserts), but a vital question of EXISTENCE.

I have now noticed, and met, a few of the principal objections that have been urged against a Repeal of the Act of Union. I have also selected a few of the principal arguments that may be fairly put forward in support of the re-establishment of a house of legislature in this country; and having discharged these duties, I humbly hope, fully and fairly, I have next to examine whether the restoration of the Irish Parliament in a new and reformed character, and under the control and direction of an imperial congress, would promote the commercial interests of the two countries,

all the valuable objects of an essential union, and largely contribute to the unity and power of the British empire.

It would be an insult to common sense to go about to prove, by laboured arithmetical details, the superior advantages that England would derive from her commerce with Ireland, if the latter country were in the full possession of her own income, and of a legislature capable of bringing into effectual operation, the numerous virgin resources of one of the most fertile countries on the globe, and the most eminently distinguished by mineral wealth, and other great facilities for an extensive commerce. Nature, in her admirable economy, has given to every country in the world certain characteristic advantages; and to encourage the full development of these advantages, is the province of a wise policy; but this policy can never be carried into effectual operation (more particularly in countries that have tasted the sweets of liberty) without the aid of local legislatures.—It is through them that a wise government will work into view the full resources of its territory, and by cultivating a spirit of liberty and a love of law, in connection with the useful arts, render these resources tributary to the wealth and power of the state; and if a political cord was ever conceived by the human imagination, more capable than another of drawing the numerous interests of an extensive empire towards one common centre, and of uniting them in the bands of a common interest and a common charity, it is that of local legislatures, under one crown and one congress. But to accomplish the good which these are capable of producing, they must be established upon reformed principles, and justice, by being administered at the public expense, must be rendered accessible to the injured citizen, without money or without price, leaving property to support all the necessary expenses of the state by an equitable system of taxation.

Having now laid down the self-evident foundations upon which the unity and prosperity of the two countries could be best promoted, I shall leave to some able financier the



task of exhibiting, by arithmetical tables, the profits that England would derive from the increased sale of her manufactures in Ireland, which, with a legislature of her own, would soon become one of the richest countries in the world. Nor is this an idle theory : for if with a corrupt parliament, such as she formerly possessed, she enjoyed peace and plenty even to a proverb, how much greater would be her advantages under a reformed system, in which none would have to complain of oppression, and none of peculiar privileges. To England she would be a granary of life, and England would be to her a storehouse of manufactures ; for Ireland, with her utmost industry, would not be able to arrive at English manufacturing perfection in less than two centuries ; and being so much behind the sister country in the measure of her capital, it is highly probable that England, with this great advantage, and with the high perfection of her science, would always lead Ireland in the march of trade ; and it is certain she would profit much more largely by her connection with a rich and prosperous country, than by her dealings with a withered, beggared, and bankrupt population.

The numerous complaints of an inconvenient and offensive influx of Irish labourers to England, would then decline, as the cultivation of four millions of acres of waste lands in Ireland, with various other useful public works, would, in addition to the ordinary labours of the field, furnish the whole peasantry of Ireland with full employment ; and if there were no other argument to advance, in the support of a local legislature, than that of its calling home the property of the country, and finding full employment for the labouring poor, even this would be conclusive.

It will be allowed, by all impartial judges, that, next to England, Ireland would be the most important country, in a Congress of the Members of the British Union ; and as all those members should be subject to the laws of congress, so Ireland could not complain of those just and necessary restrictions to her legislative power, to which England herself had subscribed, in a congress of the states or provinces. And here it occurs to me to make a passing observation

upon the magnificence of such an assembly as this, composed of the cleverest men in the British Empire, collected in London from the four quarters of the globe, for the noblest of all human purposes, that of preserving the unity of the empire, and promoting the freedom and happiness of many millions of human beings! And in such a connection, I beg to ask, would the English interest wither by the parliamentary existence of her Irish ally? Shame be to the thought. Did Rome wither by granting liberty to her conquered provinces? Did Greece contend with the most powerful states, by extinguishing her schools at Athens? Or was it by liberty that these states rose into power? And will nothing serve England but gagging bills, and the abominable caricature of fat and lean!!! Is not the body politic, like the animal economy, kept in vigour by a general circulation of the blood, and by the healthful state of the functions of every part; and does not the prosperity of a state consist in giving life, vigour, and activity, to the facilities and resources of every province; but how can this be done, as well by assemblies of men who only know these countries by report, as by men resident on the spot, and well acquainted with all the local concerns of their own districts? The consequence of legislating for countries of which we know so little, is, that we naturally fall into capital mistakes, and are obliged to have recourse to extra constitutional measures, to check the unhappy effects of our own errors; and if we thus force numerous disorders upon the body politic, will acts of mal-administration heal them? or will the heart always remain sound, and the belly prominent, when the members are so deeply disordered? May we therefore take warning in time, lest that scripture proverb should at length be fulfilled upon us: "He that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy."

And now, Sire, I shall conclude this Letter with observing, that, as in an enlightened age and country, power can only be permanently maintained upon the foundations of a just and liberal policy, it is the interest of your Royal House to

place its arm with vigour upon those corruptions and defects, by which the prosperity, the glory, and the permanency of your Majesty's dominions are endangered. I humbly conceive, that in submitting to your Majesty's consideration a plan of government, by which all diseases may be met, and all defects remedied, without departing from the letter or spirit of the British constitution, I have discharged the duty of a good citizen and subject. If obstacles exist to the execution of that plan, those obstacles have not their source in the imperfection of the system, but in the selfishness, indolence, or ignorance of those men, by whom, alas! the best of princes are too generally surrounded—men born and nursed in the lap of ease, and in the cradle of indolent security, and labouring to establish the thrones of their masters upon the base of their own particular interests, are but ill calculated to stop the clamours of a nation, or to carry into operation such an admirable system of government as that which has been imperfectly described in this Letter.

In such a state of things, the throne and the law are not established in the judgment and affections of the people, and must be maintained by an overwhelming military force; while in the United States of America, where the converse of this proposition is exemplified, the most perfect peace, and most prosperous state of society exists, with a slender military force, and a trifling system of taxation; and yet this simple and cheap government, if menaced with invasion from abroad, would find an army of citizens that would perish on the shores of their country, rather than bend their necks to the yoke of those foreign despotisms, by which a large proportion of the people of Europe have been so long deprived of just and equitable institutions.

I have the honour to be,

Sire,

With undissembled attachment to Your Majesty's person  
and interests,

Your Majesty's most devoted, most faithful,  
And most candid Servant and Subject,

A. ATKINSON.



## A REVIEW OF THE PRESS AND THE PARTIES;

Including a Critique upon Cobbett's Reformation, and an impartial Review of the Character and Capabilities of O'Connell.

In Ireland, the press and the parties are the counter-parts of one system of music; very jangling music to be sure, in the ears of those who have a taste for moral harmony; but still deeply divine in the sensorium of our country; and doubly deep in that of every administration intending to govern Ireland by the maxim "Divide et impera," as in days of yore!—However, it is not the British Government that are to blame for this system, so much as the Irish themselves.—The high church Tories, having had their chops so long and so sweetly buttered with the oil of rape and the juice of parsnips, (and if these gentlemen do not know how to butter their parsnips with good places, and to reap their tithe from the green fields of Erin with an oppressive hook, there is no truth in history,) plants which flourish in Irish tithe-lands, and close boroughs, beyond any other tract of soil in that divided country; and for the richness of their flavour, and the quantity of their produce, without any parallel even in the horticultural history of the *heavenly bodies*! These gentlemen, we say, with their sons and cousins, having grown fat upon the oil and the parsnips of their church and their boroughs, in proportion as the land grew poor by the attraction of too large a measure of its nutritive powers to the growth and perfection of *their plants*, did not wish to withdraw their tongues from their long-established and delicious function of lapping up the oil upon their palates, and within and without their cheeks; and consequently they became extremely wroth, and sung out most discordant notes, when they found the doors of the legislature thrown open to the very men whose farms had been exhausted and reduced to nothing by the absorbing power of their plants. Instead, however, of giving up, as all wise men would, to the claims of justice, and the public good (to say nothing of the sound policy of preserving their own valuable family

estates, and all their just and reasonable privileges, whole and entire) plants that had proved so pernicious both to their church and to their country, they renewed the cry of WAR when the *roots* of their *monopoly* were touched; they sounded the tocsin aloud, concentrated their forces in Dublin and the north, and harangued the Protestant populace in basses, quavers, tenors, and counter-tenors of all tones and measures: and although O'Connell pleaded for their life interest in the rape and the parsnip, and offered to them the right hand of fellowship, and pronounced the orange to be a very good colour, and the Boyne water a rich mellow tune, and even ordered his men to fire a feu-de-joie round the statue of King William III.; yet all would not do; "the fellow," said they, "was educated for a priest, and is a Jesuit in his heart; his object is to overthrow England and the Protestant religion, and to make a tool of the Irish Protestants in that holy warfare; and all this though he knows in his heart that Popery is a d—d imposition; and, if the truth were known, would much rather be tried for his life by honest and intelligent Protestants, than by a jury of his own profession in the city of Madrid." To this effect do the high church Tories think and speak of O'Connell, and thus do they fight for the preservation of the rape and the parsnip, whole and entire, instead of uniting with their countrymen, heart and hand, in demanding a regeneration of that political system, under which ignorance, poverty, discord, deadly prejudices, the ruin of Irish manufactures, the absentee system, draining the country of its life-blood, the oppression of the Irish labourer, the horrible spread of mendicancy, the murders, burnings, and savage factions of the west and south, and the party battles of the north, have been, one and all, generated, reared, and brought into action; and notwithstanding that if this system should continue to the end, even Catholic estates in the South of Ireland would be of little value; Protestant estates of still less; Ireland, instead of being the right arm of England, would be her curse and thorn; and should an ambitious power, or a union of such powers as

those of Russia, Austria, and Prussia, alight upon our shores, in any conflict of the Nations—But here we shall draw a veil over the violation of our peaceful homes by a ferocious foe, or the conversion of our fields of fertility into fields of slaughter. The evils which afflict our country are sufficient, without drawing upon the horrors of a foreign invasion, or the ravages of a barbarous enemy, alike indifferent to our quarrels and our claims. The existence of two opposing parties in this country has been its curse. It has arrested the progress of improvement. It has enabled England to oppress us, and Scotland to pass us by in the march of trade. It has sold the political independence of the country, by which alone her commercial interests could be promoted and secured. It has made us a mere tool in the hands of religious and political Quacks, who profit by our ignorance and credulity. In a word, it has left us a poor, beggared, bankrupt, barbarous Nation of wicked, superstitious, and oppressed slaves; and to this portrait, the educated, the intelligent, and the virtuous, are the sole exceptions, and in comparison of the nation, these, we fear, are but a small number. It is not a temperate rational warfare, (like that which Scotland, a united and enlightened nation, recently exercised in her pursuit of constitutional reform) that marks our course. It is a war embittered by religious hatreds, by clerical jealousies, by monopolies to be lost or won, by oppressions felt and painfully remembered, by Antichristian impositions of the high church, upon the one hand; and by foreign connection, and disgraceful corruptions of Christianity, obstinately adhered to by the low church, upon the other. These are the deep sources of Irish discord; most or all of which might be removed by a free conference of the parties, if that conference were entered into in a spirit of Christian charity, and with a firm determination to prefer the interests of truth, of their country, and of justice, to those of falsehood and imposture; of monopoly, anarchy, and blood. But to the shame of the Protestant high Tories be it said, that in the work of conciliation, in the Christian virtue of



forbearance; and above all, in a patriotic pursuit of justice for their country; even O'Connel, the prince of agitators, has left them far behind, Are *we* O'Connell's slaves? Do *we* bow before a foreign altar? Do we owe him any debt of gratitude? Yes, we owe him the debt of gratitude due to such personal incivilities as we never received from men of the first rank and distinction in the state. Do we know the source of these incivilities? No matter—we scorn them and their source together; we trample them under foot; and when we write upon our country, we shall do it independently and without prejudice, as we have always done. And without imputing to O'Connell that purity of motive which angels feel, or that perfection of judgment which is their attribute; without asserting that he is free from high ambition or from low resentments, or from selfish interests and prejudices, the worst of all; we maintain that (with all his faults) he has proved so far faithful to his country's claims; and that he is just such a man as Ireland requires at the present crisis; cool, constitutional, well informed, rich in experience, and in the resources which she supplies; steady, persevering, and patriotic; and from his superior knowledge of the law, fit to guide the bark of his country over that stormy sea of civil oppression and political discontent, on which she has been long embarked; although we are not ignorant that in the discharge of his duty as the pilot of the vessel, he has sometimes exercised a despotism towards virtuous and unbending spirits (witness his conduct towards the amiable and unfortunate Clayton, of Galway,) that clearly evinced he had not arrived at that point of mental illumination, or rather perhaps of religious and political *independence*, in which he could afford to let justice triumph at the expense of priestcraft, his working tool. Or if his treatment of Clayton, who had become a Protestant, and his vindication of the conduct of the Galway priests in that family transaction (and we have known some Methodist preachers of the high church party in Ireland guilty of a similar offence, thus proving a principle which we have often

advanced, that Priestcraft is the same in all churches.) If these proceedings of his, we say, in reference to Clayton, were really the offspring of a religious or educational bias, we must only conclude, if the doctrine of Purgatory be true, that its fires have not yet purged the bigoted soul of the patriot from its last stains of prejudice; and the worst of all prejudices in a catalogue of the corruptions of the heart, that which takes its rise from a zeal for God and his church; as if the former could be glorified, and the latter honoured by acts of injustice to our brethren, and by taking for the guide of our conduct, the most imbibited and criminal of all those unholy passions which have taken up their abode in the human heart.\*

\* In reference to this affair of Clayton, (who, when he became a Protestant, was ejected from the embraces of his family by Popish bigotry, cultivated by Galway priests,) and some other acts of Mr. O'Connell, that, *as private acts*, would not bear to be tried by the aquafortis of that golden rule, "Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them," &c.; as also in reference to *the use* which he is supposed (by some) to make of such political institutions as derive their existence from his personal influence acting upon popular feeling; and which, in opposition to him, could obtain no lasting position on the soil of Ireland. In reference to the use which he makes of these, and to the ascendancy which he maintains in them, it may perhaps be said, in vindication of his occasionally partial and despotic conduct, that in the peculiar circumstances of Ireland, he could not conduct his country out of her present distresses into her former prosperity, without placing the political institutions of that country, as far as possible, under his own personal control, and enlisting the priesthood of the people effectually in his cause;—and to this end he might deem it justifiable to put down every individual, however upright, or however well founded his particular complaint, who should presume to lay a finger (as Clayton did) upon any part of that machinery, by the working of which, he proposes to restore his country to that state of prosperity in which she stood prior to the Act of Union, agreeable to that well-known maxim of certain politicians and divines, "The greater good justifies the lesser evil."

This is perhaps the best apology that can be offered for O'Connell's treatment of Clayton, and some other acts of a similar description; and if, in a *moral point of view*, they cannot be justified, *the mere politician* will regard it as an extenuation of their guilt, if not a vindication of their necessity, that the end justified the means; and we need hardly state, that although a man actuated by motives of *Christian virtue*, may embark on the sea of European politics for the public good, yet over that sea he will never

In pressing towards the mark of TRUTH, we do not believe that any Protestant of our stamp will receive justice

conduct his bark to the place of its destination, with this principle for his pilot; although his own soul may be conducted to a happier port;—for Europe is not like Pennsylvania, when William Penn colonised it with a company of such honest and virtuous men as our quarter of the world is not likely soon to produce again for a similar purpose. It is much more like a nest of cunning sharpers, each labouring, by plot and intrigue, to outwit the other, and to carry into operation their respective views, without yielding to any *foolish scruples* (for such they regard them) as to the *crimes* that must be committed in the working of their favourite scheme to that placid and prosperous conclusion which they always contemplate!

This being the state of Europe, we need not look for more virtue in O'Connell than in other men, notwithstanding that he was educated for a priest—and indeed if we take a retrospective view of those characters who are recorded on the page of history, even as instruments of the most distinguished revolutions in the cause of human liberty, we shall not find many of them adhering, like William Penn, to the strictest rules of Christian morality in their laws and public proceedings; nor returning, like Washington and the Roman Cincinnatus, to the cultivation of their family farms, after splendid victories; nor with Tiberius Gracchus, denouncing that man as a vicious citizen who could not live upon seven acres of land! Oh no, we do not look for such examples of stern morality in these days of Europe; for although she has still her patriots, thank Heaven, and many too; yet these excellent men do generally wish to be well rewarded for their services (which no doubt they deserve to be); and hence when we thank God that the Duke of Wellington conquered Buonaparte, and that Dan. O'Connell rose up to procure justice for Ireland, we do not tarnish their laurels with the liberal rewards with which their country has crowned them; nor dwell with fastidious particularity upon the affairs of Marshal Ney, or the fibs of O'Connell, in a burst of gratitude for the services which they have rendered to their country, in their struggles with the despotism which would have crushed it.

All candid Protestants will allow that Luther was a man of strong passions, and without him the mild and virtuous Melancthon would never have been able to procure religious liberty for Europe; but while the intelligent Protestant is thankful for the victory achieved by Luther over the intolerance of Rome, he has too just a sense of the respect which he owes to his own character, to enter into a vindication of all the words and actions by which Luther achieved that glorious victory over bigotry and blood.

Without a Howard, the prisons would not have been reformed. Without a Washington, a Franklin, and a Bolivar, America would still retain the *blessing* of taxation without representation. Without a Luther, there would have been no reformation. Without a Knox, Episcopacy would have still *blessed* Scotland. Without a Wesley and a Whitfield, there would have been



from either of the great leading *parties* in Ireland; because these parties are actuated by other motives than those of the public good. From the *people* of Ireland, if permitted to obey the generous impulses of their generous nature, we would receive justice; and we have received it in divers public assemblies, as well as in private Catholic society, when no influence was exerted to withhold the boon; but those generous people, both Protestant and Catholic, together with the whole press of the capital of Ireland, are under the direction and influence of powers, with which TRUTH, presuming to bear testimony against any portion of their corruption, would vainly labour to contend; and if this applies to O'Connell, his party, and his press, it attaches with equal force to every high church portion of the Protestant press of Ireland, and to every meeting, religious and political, where the advocate of any truth that does not tally with the object of the meeting and its *leaders*, would receive the same treatment that poor Clayton received from O'Connell, in a meeting of the Catholic Association; that Mr. O'Hagan received at a meeting of the New Reformation Society, in the Rotunda of Dublin; and with which the author of this work had also been honoured, in a Catholic meeting at the Corn Exchange in the same city; at the first Brunswick meeting convened in Dublin (where personal violence was their last argument); and lastly, at a biblical meeting in Sligo, where, after discussion was publicly invited and accepted, and a fair hearing (after routine business) promised to the acceptor from the chair, the clerical underlings of the

no Methodism; and without a Harry VIII., England might have been still subject to the Pope. We Protestants regard all these men as the benefactors of their country; and yet they all had their crimes, errors, and infirmities, as well as Dan, as we ourselves, and all other men, since nature has been corrupted by the fall. Let us therefore forgive his faults for the sake of his virtues; and as by his supereminent talents he has procured liberty for himself and his Catholic brethren, let us hope that his name will descend to posterity as the restorer of Ireland (in a happy moral union with the British Empire) to that prosperity into which she was so rapidly ascending before England took her into her *cold embrace*.

plot, in order to find an apology for breaking the Chairman's pledge, and the invitation of the Rev. Mr. Mc Neale (son-in-law of Dr. Magee, the then Archbishop of Dublin) to enter upon free discussion, kept preaching long winded sermons to the people until a late hour in the evening, when no one could listen to a reply ! This is the kind of justice that men find in Ireland who are of no faction, and exactly the same sort of justice they receive from that slave of faction,

#### THE DUBLIN PRESS.

The press has now become an engine of such enormous power, and exercises such an influence over the public mind in Ireland, that no outline of this country will be deemed satisfactory to the public, without some observations on the existing state of that immense machine, which, by a secret influence, forces the whole tide of society before it ; notwithstanding that it is as crazy and corrupt as it is huge and unwieldy, and is continually vomiting forth a promiscuous mass of good and evil upon the country.

That much important truth oozes through the crevices of this crazy and corrupt machine, propelled in most cases by interested managers, for purposes very foreign to those of truth and the public welfare, (but here the out and out friends of the press will interrupt us and say, that its managers could not possibly live by fair dealing ; and that, like attorneys, priests, and doctors, they are really as honest as they can afford to be.) That much valuable truth, we say, oozes through the crevices of this crazy and corrupt machine, must be admitted ; for if some proportion of truth were not blended with the lying impositions that are every day practised upon the prejudices and passions of the people for selfish ends, even the factions for whom they write would blush and be disgusted ; but that the press of Dublin is the tool of privilege and plunder, upon one side ; and of ambition, private interest, and factious purposes, (mixed up with the Nation's just claims) upon the other ; a cool and sensible

observer, raised by the force of his own virtue and genius above the plots and prejudices of his country, has only to see and be convinced of.

It has already been hinted at, in mitigation of the censure due to such a corrupt course, that men who have embarked their all in a printing and publishing establishment, are forced, by irresistible necessity, in such a country as Ireland, to enlist their capital and talents under the banners of a faction, and to follow the leaders of that faction through thick and thin, (a principle of policy, however, though equally with them dependent upon public patronage for support, that the author of this work has always trampled under foot, in the management of his various literary concerns;) and farther, that a corrupt people must always have a corrupt press, inasmuch as they would neither read nor support a publication that was not embarked in the service of their prejudices! and still less, one that was expressly originated to reform their vices, correct their prejudices, and teach them to snap asunder the silken chains of monopoly, upon the one hand, and those iron chains of Priestcraft, upon the other; by which their souls have been made the instruments of their own slavery, and of the poverty and degradation of the country which gave them birth.

That arguments deducible from these selfish considerations will always have much force in the way of trade, we well know; and that they will always be regarded as *paramount* by the man, whose chief object is his own private interest, requires no force of logic to convince the candid mind. On this principle the slave dealer (and we would fain know whether the poor brawny blacksmith, who forges chains for the body, or the thinking literary impostor who forges fetters for the mind, is the greater criminal of the two?) On this principle, we say, the slave dealer is a righteous man and a good citizen in his own vocation, and should not be censured with severity by the moralist, since he only forges chains for the body; while the literary criminal, whose turpitude he overlooks, makes fast those fetters



of slavery and superstition, from which the General who has conquered in the field, and the Orator who has triumphed in the senate, have not been able to escape.

If this apology for the corrupt press of Dublin stand good, then the Evening Mail, the Warder, and other papers of that stamp, cannot be justly censured by their opposers, for having travelled the whole way with the tithes and the Parsons; for preaching up the purity and impeccability of their friends the Bishops; for vainly pretending (at the very moment when they give the lie to the gospel, by calling on Protestants to arm in the support of a *forced maintenance for the ministry!*) that they believe the New Testament to be the standard of a Christian's faith and practice, and the only sure instrument of a Christian education in their native land! seeing that it is their obvious *interest* to preach up these doctrines; and all others, however gross and contradictory, that minister to the errors and corrupt interests of the party who support them, and from whose favour alone they can hope to reap a rich harvest of reward.

Neither are they to be censured for stooping to persuade such *poor Protestants* as cannot reason well upon these subjects, that the tithes and the church are one and indivisible; and that if the former should fall, the latter will sink into extinction! and in like manner, *ceteris paribus*, that if Parliament should be reformed, and the laws purified, the British constitution (by which they always mean Protestant privilege, Protestant ascendancy, and Protestant plunder) will be tainted in its purity; and, as a final result of this disaster, that the state will perish! These worthy journalists do not feel it necessary to place American Protestantism in the fore-ground of the systems which they thus rear upon narrow and untenable foundations; nor Protestantism, even as it stands in France, where the ministers of this religion are well and sufficiently supported by the state, without any aid from the Levitical establishment. In the former of these countries (we mean the United States), Protestantism stands upon the foundation of its own evidence, and in the full

enjoyment of its own manly freedom, without any aid from the laws or constitution of that country, which, like our own humble but independent labours, disclaim all connection with sect, party, or profession, Protestant or Popish. But it would not suit the interests of the Irish Tory press, to exhibit Protestantism to their readers in these aspects; for that would look like a course of pleading against tithes, and to plead against tithes and the princely revenues of the bishops (in a paradise where they stand upon such a proud pedestal,) would be to offend their patrons, and to bid farewell to their emoluments.—Neither would it work favourably for their interests to talk too much about the growth of Methodism in England, and the high respectability of the ministers of the Dissenting congregations, without any other aid from the secular power than that of its mere toleration; because facts of this kind, frequently put forward, would finally convince all Protestants that the wealth and splendour of a gorgeous church are not necessary to the maintenance of true religion; and that all which has been taken, *vi et armis*, from the poor and from the public, for this purpose, was deeply detrimental to the country, to the state, and to the church itself; and the sooner these abuses are got rid of, the better for the king and for the people. On the other hand, the Freeman, the Register, and other papers of that stamp, pursue exactly the same policy in the opposite direction. Their priests, (like Hannah More's ministers,\*) are

\* Vide Miss More's Religious Tracts.—But we could tell Hannah a story about one of her clergy in Liverpool that would shock her feelings.—This gentleman entered the house (we think of a Mrs. Simon, where a sick stranger was lodging) in a *furious passion* for having been twice called upon to read the office of the sick for the stranger just noticed. The latter, after attentively viewing the sort of character that had come to visit him (and who had entered his sick room with a charge of *impertinence* for the trouble that had been given him,) took the candle and candle-stick from his table, and walking in his night-cap and sick clothing to his chamber door, opened it, and with a stern look of disapprobation, desired the minister (who was dressed in his canonicals) to withdraw, as he would not receive assistance from *such a clergyman*, even in the article of death. The clergyman, evidently astonished, (and the landlady, if possible, still more so) retreated quickly from the scene of his impro-

all marvellously pious men ; God bless the mark. Their bishops are all " My Lords and your Grace " ! ( we say nothing here about St. Paul's " Lords over God's heritage. " ) The revenues of their clergy ( which Davy M' Cleery says are equal to those of the Established Church, ) are nothing to the poor, and could not be commuted for an income from the state, without compromising the purity of the Rosary, the litany of St. Joseph, or the mysteries of St. Mary of Mt. Carmel ! ! ! The lay leaders of their party press are all good men and true, in proportion to the *weight* and *solidity* of the *arguments* which they produce to the literary rogues who write for them ; in proportion to the power and influence which they wield over the public mind through the public prejudices ; in proportion as they play well upon the strings of national feeling ; in proportion as they are able to render lies venerable, and to throw every man into the shade whose spirit kindles with honest indignation at this vile traffic, and who has the manliness to avow his contempt of that popularity which is procured by inflammatory appeals to the prejudices and passions of a generous and warm-hearted people ! But this is the corrupt element in which the press of Dublin thrives and prospers ; and it is therefore not surprising that you so seldom find impartial truth in it, and that the labours of the most upright men for the emancipation of their country from prejudice and oppression, and for the promotion of all the real interests of Ireland, have been sometimes either totally overlooked, or so grossly misrepresented, as to produce an impression upon the reader's mind, diametrically opposite to that which the facts of the case would justify in the hands of an honest and impartial writer.

It was to such writers as these, that Cobbett was indebted for the unjust and illiberal contempt with which they passed

priety, with, we hope, a useful conviction of the error of his conduct ; but we are bound to say, to the honour of the clergy of the establishment in our own unfortunate country, that we never saw such an instance of flagrant impropriety as this in the whole course of our experience.



over divers of his works that have contributed to the diffusion of useful knowledge in Great Britain and her colonies (his grammar, political sermons, and agricultural treatises for instance;) and this evidently prejudicial proceeding was rendered the more remarkable by a generous devotion of their columns to works of inferior utility, at the time when Cobbett's books made their appearance in England, and put in a strong claim to the notice of the English and Scotch Reviewers, from the importance of the topics which formed the subject matter of these his useful practical productions. This tribute of condemnation, upon the one hand, and of approbation on the other, is due to justice, and is therefore freely paid; although, in reference to this celebrated writer and his works, we must say, (since we have made a momentary plunge into the English press,) that of all his productions which we have seen, his History of the Protestant Reformation is the most unjust and partial. Into the arguments for or against the doctrines of the Reformation, or the service which it rendered to the cause of liberty, by breaking the despotic chains of Rome, the numbers of Mr. Cobbett's work that we saw did not once enter; it was prickly ground for the interests of Rome (from which the work drew its principal support,) and on that account was perhaps carefully avoided in the few first numbers of the Reformation that we saw. If in the succeeding numbers, Mr. Cobbett did indeed become a theologian, it was a design of which we could derive no just presumption from the numbers which we read; and as to the arguments which he drew forth against the Reformation, from the crimes or errors of the Reformers, from the corruption of English law, or the abuses of church property, from the distresses of the English people, under the sway of a Protestant church and government; or from the peace and plenty of Catholic England in former times, upon which he emphatically dwelt. These arguments, we say, *if indeed they deserve the name*, (though seized with *avidity* by a blind and prejudiced population, as containing a disgraceful portrait of the Reformation from the pen of a

popular Protestant writer !) had just as much to do with the civil reasons for the Reformation, or with the religious doctrines which it held forth, or with those which it impugned and resisted, as the crimes of the popes, the despotism of their government, and the hardships endured by the Italians (who have recently risen in arms to resist their oppressions) have to do with the doctrine of the Trinity which they teach, (although their nearer relation to the fires of purgatory, of which they are a more sensible and impressive figure, we shall not deny.) And even if it could be proved that the sufferings of these Italians were the natural and necessary result of the despotic character of their religion and government (which would not be very far from the mark,) this, instead of being an argument against the Reformation, would be a strong one for it, as it would prove the necessity that existed for the formation of a powerful coalition to lay prostrate an authority, which under holy pretences (the worst *pretences* in the world,) was calculated to oppress mankind, and to rob them of their just and natural rights.\*

\* Nothing can furnish a more convincing practical proof of the transcendent moral excellence of the Reformation, than the perfect civil and religious liberty into which it has conducted England. And of this perfect civil and religious liberty there can be no more conclusive evidence than that with which Mr. Cobbett himself furnishes the English public. Instead of suffering in his person, property, liberty, or civil interests in any way, by abusing the Reformation, the Protestant religion, and (inferentially) the laws and government of England, which profess and maintain them, he has, it may be fairly presumed, made a very handsome addition to his income by this holy traffic! And if he only consider what his fate would be, were he to make a similar experiment upon Popery (and oh what noble space he would find for his literary excursions in that field,) at the fountain head of government in any of the Catholic states of Italy, Portugal, or Spain—If he only consider, we say, the kind of *compliment* which the Pope, or any of the princes of these states would pay him upon this change of circumstances, it is probable he would not have much occasion to glory in the honour of knighthood with which the Pope is said to have crowned him upon reading his famous book against the Protestant Reformation! We may probably be told that England is not indebted to the Reformation for the liberty she enjoys; for that English Catholics had wrested Magna Charta from King John long before Protestantism was known there; but if the reader will turn to the chapter on Fermanagh, in this work, he will find this and other arguments

If Mr. Cobbett can establish his hypothesis against the Reformation from the crimes and errors of the Reformers; from the plenty of Catholic England, and her mode of providing for her poor; from the plunder of the Catholic Church by Harry VIII.; from the present or late distresses of the working classes in Protestant England; or from any other arguments having no more relation to the matter at issue between the two churches than these have; why then the crimes of the Popes, their despotic government, and the distresses of their people, rising in rebellion against them, must be conclusive evidence against the Catholic religion. And not only so, but the crimes of the Jews also, (and by their own accounts there were no more criminal people) must go to prove, that their recovery from idolatry (to which they had a strong propensity,) to the worship of the one true God, was a great evil. We shall place this latter illustration in the form of a proposition, thus—

The Jews had plenty of food and clothing when they practised idolatry in Egypt.

But they suffered great hardships when they renounced it, and returned to the worship of the one true God.

Therefore that worship was a great evil!

Let the reader apply this proposition to England and the Reformation, and he has the full force of Mr. Cobbett's argument, which has not even the merit of ingenuity, as *it deceives no one* except those who are *wilfully blind*, or deeply ignorant; or who live upon *the poison of prejudice*, and whose

that have been put forward in support of the liberal genius of the Catholic religion, freely answered. We wish England may profit by Mr. Cobbett's exposure (and every other exposure) of her errors; for we know by sorrowful experience that there is much room for improvement in her policy. But however erroneous she has been in some parts of her policy and practice, she has (through the Reformation as the first cause,) arrived at the enjoyment of that civil and religious liberty, which are her chief glory; and while we presume to point out her faults, we feel pleasure in doing justice to her virtues, and should be sorry to see her travelling back to the iron age of religious intolerance, in order to render those virtues more bright and burning.



food being *deception*, they ignorantly rejoice at the victory which they suppose their champion has obtained for them ! He has indeed obtained a victory for himself, but it was *at their expence*, (for it implies the strongest contempt of their understandings,) while they vainly imagined it was at the expence of the Reformation, that he gulled *them* ; although all the world know that *religious* liberty would be unknown in Europe but for that happy Reformation, which has shorn Popery of its most dangerous fangs.

Mr. Cobbett's arguments, if they were worth any thing, would go to prove that the ancient despotism of France was a better form of government than the liberal one which she now enjoys, because the people of Catholic France might have had plenty of food and clothing under the old regime, and the people of Lyons and other places have recently trod on the verge of famine, from a depression in their trade, and a consequent absence of profitable employment.

The inconsistency of such arguments as these, either for or against any system of religion, is self-evident ; and yet these were the chords of prejudice which the English musician touched, *and to some purpose* ; if it be true, as we heard, that his work took well in all Catholic countries ; that the Pope read and extolled it to the skies (to be sure he would ;) and that 30,000 copies of the work were sold by one Catholic bookseller in the city of Dublin ! Now, although we are as much opposed as Mr. Cobbett, or any other man, to English abuses ; and have no more taste for the crimes of Harry VIII. than for those of Pope Alexander, who lay with his mother.\* And although we are absolutely dependant upon the patronage of the public (under the protection of our God,) for the means of existence ; yet we never did stoop, and trust we never shall, to a flagrant violation of our own professed principles, or to the public commendation of a system, whose principles we condemn, for

\* Alexander VI., who, with his son Cæsar Borgio, perished by the poison which they had prepared for seven cardinals who had opposed their ambitious pretensions. See *Encyclopedia Britannica*, under the head of Cæsar Borgio.

the poor perishing rewards of popularity or profit, however we may value these benefits, as a voluntary offering at the shrine of virtue.—No, in a trial of this nature (where principle and profit are at issue) we would rather imitate the example of the noble Milton. “You, my dear,” said he to his wife (in answer to her remonstrances against his rejection of the Latin secretaryship, generously offered to be restored to him by Charles II., whose father he had contributed to dethrone,) “You, my dear,” said he, “like all other women, would wish to ride in your coach; but I wish to die as I have lived, an honest man!” Noble Milton! wrong perhaps in thy judgment, but right in the integrity of thy purpose.—Milton’s conscientious objection to monarchy, might have been ill founded (and, in our opinion, as it relates to England, a maritime state, was a dangerous prejudice.) Still, however *we* may prefer the British constitution of three estates (when purified from the abuses which corrupt it,) to any form of government in the world, we cannot but reverence the honest consistency and virtuous independence of the English poet, and would say to our own heart, as to that of any other man, “Imitate the virtue of the heart of Milton, but reject the error of his understanding;” which, if universally received, would go to impair the power, and might finally betray the liberties, of that country, whose glory and happiness it was the object of the virtuous but mistaken Milton to promote.

Having now closed our plunge into the English press, we hope the reader will have no objection to our coming back to Ireland, and playing a stave or two (begging his pardon for the vulgar tune we are about to introduce to him) of Paddy O’Rafferty, upon that divine and immaculate instrument of Irish harmony, the Dublin Press.

It is a well known fact in all human history, that from apparently trifling causes, have proceeded some of the most remarkable events that have opened to the view of mankind the sources of human corruption, and set in motion the springs of justice appointed to correct them. Thus when

Rome was polluted with the crimes of the Tarquins, the slumbering talent of Junius Brutus was made the instrument of arousing the energies of his country, and of avenging its insulted justice. In like manner that great religious and political event, which divided Europe (happily for liberty) into two great parties, had its origin in a quarrel between two obscure friars; and to this quarrel Protestants are now indebted for liberty to worship God according to their consciences, and to speak and write their sentiments freely upon all subjects, without fear of the Bastile or the Inquisition, the fires of Smithfield, the act of Præmunire, or the dungeons of the prison house. If zealous for their principles — if distinguished for their hatred of oppression and imposture, they may expect that snares will be laid for their downfall in divers conclaves; but they have nothing to fear from the LAWS of the enlightened states of England and France in this age of reason, nor yet from the *public acts* of the magistrates appointed to administer those laws. The penalties which they have to incur, are such as must be encountered by every Reformer, until the laws of Nations are so far purified, as that human corruption must bend its neck to the yoke of justice; and it is for the achievement of this end that the Reformation was originated by a special providence, and that a handful of the Puritans and Quakers, who, in the reigns of the English Charles's were treated worse than the beasts of the field, were made the instruments of laying the foundations of liberty and moral order in the new world. Nor is it the least remarkable event in the history of retributive justice, that the children of those persecuted men, wrested from the mother country those American colonies which she had peopled by her penal laws; in the same manner as Protestant liberty was established, and kingdoms rescued from the arbitrary grasp of Rome, by a violent reaction upon the abuses of the Papal power. Thus also, in Ireland our native land, where a system of penal persecution had long prevailed, a Catholic lawyer, without title or distinction, was made the instrument of arousing the energies



of his country, and of procuring, by legal and constitutional exertion, the *commencement* of a course of justice, that we trust will lead to a purification of our laws, and to a union of the two countries upon the only base that can sustain it, a just and equal participation in all the benefits and burthens of that common Empire, to which they equally belong.

Having thus shown that great and mighty revolutions in favour of human liberty have had their origin in small beginnings (like a river issuing from the crevice of a rock, which finally bears upon its mighty tide the most majestic vessels to the bosom of the ocean), let not the reader despise this first movement of an humble individual, in that great and important work, so essential to the civil and moral improvement of a fine country; namely, a reform of the public press; nor treat with contempt the few and insignificant proofs of the corrupt constitution of the press of Dublin, with which it is possible for an individual to charge his memory, who is so often absent from that city, and so heavily incumbered with his professional pursuits, that he could not possibly command time to collect into a heap, those mountain masses of lies, misrepresentations, equivocations, mean jealousies, malicious oversights, purchased panegyrics, and factious conspiracies of that press, that in a single year would raise a pile as lofty as that of Babel; and which, in its veerings, vacillations, and contradictory croakings (as the wind of interest or prejudice may chance to blow) bears a strong resemblance to that confusion of languages, into which the building of that Babel led. Rather let the reader rejoice that the hint thus furnished to men of leisure and fortune, who have some reverence for truth, may lead to the establishment of a newspaper review in Dublin, that shall drag from the literary manufactories of that city, the deceitful gauze by which the hidden springs of their bigotry and corruption are concealed from the public eye; that shall exhibit the principle of these springs, their mode of working, and the end and object of their operations, to the view of the *deluded*; that shall expose their factious and fraudulent

dealing with public subjects and public men, to the common sense and common honesty of the whole country; and thus disabusing the ignorant and deluded parties, from whose passions and prejudices this corrupt press draws its oil and wine, the success that will attend the honest and able operations of this review, may lead to the establishment of similar reviews in other cities; and thus a check may be placed upon the lies, false colourings, prejudices, and various acts of public and personal injustice, by which the press of Dublin has been too frequently and deeply disgraced; and in time this press will be compelled to deal more fairly and impartially with public subjects and public men; or by the aid of impartial newspaper reviews, it will be brought into such general contempt, that none will read it but the slaves and impostors for whose purposes it is written, and by whom alone, in an age of enlightened reason, it would be studied and maintained.

Here is the object that we contemplate, in the discharge of our duty, as the pioneer of a company armed with sufficient powers to bring a Park of Artillery to bear upon those silky sleeve laughing impostors, who under the patronage of a wealthy high church, upon the one hand, and of learned and practised Jesuits, upon the other, unite to force honest and unsophisticated Truth out of the market, and to keep the Irish populace in a state of ignorance and abject submission to their leaders, as machines to be set in motion, whenever these leaders have a corruption to protect, or an end of ambition to be answered.

During the progress of an humble attempt to unmask these abominable impostures in Ireland, through a work published in Dublin in a succession of numbers, under the title of "the Moon" (with seven stars originally placed as body guards around the planet, to protect her from danger while sailing through the hells of Dublin, at the top of her title page.) During this time we had many opportunities of perceiving the precise nature of the springs, by which Plot, Plunder, and Priestcraft (three brothers of the same parent stock) carry

on their operations against the deluded people of our country. The result of our first observation was, a discovery of the family relationship existing between these three popular leaders of the parties, whose family connexion is totally unknown to the people of Ireland upon whom they make their experiments; because in the opposite and hostile positions *to each other* which these impostors have politically placed themselves, they are not even suspected by the people of the country to be members of the same family; a mystery which can only be discovered by those who have studied deeply the science of political astrology, and who carry on a secret and confidential correspondence with the heavenly bodies. The marks however of this family relationship are sufficiently plain to prove the truth of their connexion, even to those who have been the victims of their delusion; that is, when the eyes of those victims have been purified by intellectual light from the last remains of those green and yellow fluids which it is the whole business of these sorcerers to plant, preserve, and propagate, in the organ of vision, by their unique and yet diversified enchantments. The eye being thus purified, it is then in a capacity of seeing the Irish parties and their operations through a new and a true medium. Exercising this newly received power of seeing things *exactly as they are*, the enlightened eye of the spectator will discover that between the two great contending parties of his country, (both having conscious corruptions to conceal) a private agreement, or tacit understanding, has been entered into, that the Irish market of religious and political disputation shall be preserved (as a valuable monopoly) exclusively to themselves; and that if any third luminary should show itself above the horizon of their country, pretending that it has come to shed light upon *the whole body of their corruptions*, that they shall instantly kick that planet out of the Heavens; or if perchance their legs should not be quite long enough to reach it, in that distant position, that they shall despatch Davy the Dublin tailor on his lapboard to the Moon, in order to snuff out that planet with his shears, and



to extinguish the seven stars with his thimble.\* This being the notorious practice, and the evidently implied agreement, of the parties, their family relationship is clearly proved by this single mark ; which if any man (from the apparent improbability of the thing) shall choose to doubt, let him only join Owen, the Philanthropist, in an effort to provide for the poor of Ireland independent of the Priestcraft of the country ; or the Moon, in an attitude to reflect the light of Truth upon the public mind ; or any philosopher whatever, in an effort to disabuse that mind of its prejudices, which form the inexhaustible material of the wealthy and profitable trade of all its leaders, and he will soon find, by dear bought experience, that the Moon was before him in this market.

It was thus in the days of Diana of Ephesus, that Demetrius, the silversmith, who (in connection with his fellow craftsmen) derived a liberal fortune from the prejudices of his fellow citizens. It was thus, we say, that he laboured to preserve Ephesus from the irretrievable ruin that would fall upon the men of his craft, if Christianity should be permitted to overthrow idolatry in that city. It is exactly so in the present day ; and hence the true foundation of the understanding that exists between the leaders of the parties in Ireland, that they shall preserve a monopoly of the market of disputation to themselves ; and that no power, hostile to their common corruptions, shall be permitted to enter the field with a Park of Artillery, that with one powerful and well directed broadside of plain truth, might leave their enchantments and flimsy fancy works in such a state of confusion and disorder, that the Doctors, with their utmost industry, and that policy of which they are such perfect masters, might not be able to put the odds and ends of their pretty images together for some time to come ; and even when, with much care and labour, they had placed them upon their former base of quiet credulity and ignorant loy-

\* Day, the Tailor, a talkative member of the Dublin corporation, who thought to extinguish the Moon by his noisy insolence at the first Brunswick Meeting in Dublin.

alty to their leaders, in which the battle first found them, a tendency to rock and shake when assailed by those tempests which Truth only can withstand, would prove a source of continual alarm to the Doctors' minds, which are peculiarly sensitive on all these subjects.

The Moon, as we have just mentioned, having embarked her services in the dangerous and arduous task of reflecting the light of the Sun of Truth upon the impostures of Ireland, was hunted so closely through all the hells of Dublin, (and believe me, my brethren, these hells are very rich and profitable places,) that the poor planet, after having endured the hardship of running through the fiery circuit of three succeeding editions, (which she gallantly performed, notwithstanding the combined powers of all the devils in the hells just noticed,) at length became so exhausted by her almost preternatural exertions, as to fall, one fine summer morning, into the arms of the God of Day, in a deep fainting fit, and has never since been heard of; the god no doubt having taken due care of her in that position.

In the progress of her threefold race, all sorts of scouts, Protestant, Popish, and Methodistic, were employed to hunt her down, and to extinguish her. Brunswick men, Catholic association men, and Corporation men, even Davy the Tailor not excepted. The numerous religionists, and particularly the different orders of pious sisters, communicating between the clergy and the people, in public collections, in visitations of the sick, the sorrowful, the superannuated, the schools, the convents, the confraternities, the Bible societies, the education societies, and a hundred other societies, were handy and convenient instruments for running down the Moon in every house, at every table, and in every shop where curiosity might have opened a crevice of the door to her reflections. All, all who had seen the Moon, and who trembled for their systems, were, more or less, embarked in this holy warfare! Booksellers were menaced with a loss of custom, if they dared to let the Moon shine upon their shelves or counters. Mercers were afraid to

admit the planet that was "every where spoken against;" and even the Dublin Library, (of which the late Dr. Hamell, R. C. Vicar-general of the Archdiocese of Dublin, was a Vice-president, and many of the same persuasion among its ruling members,) though professing to be a liberal institution, would not receive it, although moved for admission (as Mr. Wright, the Rev. Protestant secretary of that institution informed the Editor) by a member of its own body. The periodical press, with the exception of the Freeman's Journal, when edited by the late Mr. Power, and one very good-natured and humorous critique by the weekly Warder, acted the same part; and thus, as over the benevolent purposes of Mr. Owen for the relief of the poor in Ireland, priestcraft and party obtained over the Moon also, a complete triumph, although this planet had no other public object in view save the good of Ireland, by the emancipation of the public mind from the prejudices which enthrall it.\*

Here then is a true picture of the state of Ireland, her parties, and her press; and should any honest man, (we do not mean *an honest fool*, for of these we believe we have some hundreds of thousands in Ireland, our country;) but a man of enlightened judgment, seeing things as they are, and determined, at all hazards, in his voyage of reform, to stick close to the plank of his integrity; should such a man as this embark his vessel on the sea of Irish politics, and attempt to steer her steadily towards the port of Truth and the public welfare, he would soon find that he was mistaken in his calculations, if he entertained the vain expectation of being able to arrive there. He would not have sailed fifty knots in this course, until he would find himself assailed by contrary winds, and by frigates under false colours, pretending to sail in the same direction, but the sole end of whose

\* Mr. Maud, a bookseller, then residing on Ormond-quay, Dublin, shewed the Editor of the Moon a menacing letter to the effect above-mentioned; Mr. Curry, an eminent bookseller in Sackville-street, to whom the Moon paid her pointed compliments in a humorous epigram; and an eminent silk-mercier, whose shop was then the resort of almost all the pious ladies of Dublin, are among the persons alluded to in the above paragraph.



voyage was the plunder of the seas, and the ruin of every expedition that had for its object the triumph of truth and liberty over slavery and falsehood.—If finding himself baffled on the seas, he should seat himself in the Moon, in order to shed light upon his benighted country, a little experience would prove that he had only shifted his position; for the Moon would not have performed three of her monthly revolutions, until a thousand scouts would be despatched from the schools and conventicles of Dublin, to hunt down the planet that was shedding light upon the church property, the trade of priestcraft, the abuses of the law system, of the parties and the press; and, in a word, all the humbugs and monopolies by which (in the plain and vulgar language of a distich with which we bearded a *mock meeting* for the relief of the poor Dublin weavers in 1826)

The millions perish, while the ciphers eat,  
The mutton's juicy and nutritious meat;  
The bee collects the honey, but the drone,  
Comes in and calls the property his own.\*

\* In reference to the aforesaid meeting, it may be observed, that several of the gentlemen (trustees to divers dormant funds) who attended this and other public meetings at the Dublin Exchange, (professedly for the purpose of relieving the liberty weavers, thrown out of employment by a stagnation of trade) could very easily at that time have restored these poor people to their looms, by appropriating the dormant funds over which they exercised a control (and some of which had lain sleeping for a course of years,) to the payment of any loss which their employers might happen to sustain by the sale of their stock on hand, at whatever price could be procured for it in the public market. This course, however, though urged with strong argument and evidence, in favour of our trade and weavers, was rejected; (a conspiracy, we have good reason to believe, against Irish manufacturers, being then in active operation; for confirmation of which opinion, see the report of the Dublin Trades' Union, and the historical facts embodied in Mr. Dalton's letter upon the state of Irish trade, at the commencement of this volume,) and as a natural consequence of this rejection of our trade, the public subscriptions were applied to the payment of the weavers, first at the rate of 1s. per day to each man, which was soon after reduced to sixpence, and finally to fourpence, for breaking stones for the repairs of the streets, &c. for which the citizens pay a heavy tax to the paving corporation; and a number of these unfortunate men, with their families, soon after perished in the hospitals of the city, and were buried under cover of the night, in the hospital fields of Dublin.

Lest, however, the Moon should come to the full, and shed too much light upon the "form and pressure" of the impostures by which the millions perish, the scouts just noticed were actually despatched in all directions by the Protestant traders in metaphysics; and the Jesuits perhaps apprehending that if the thing went on, their trade in Irish credulity might be extinguished, despatched a "Comet" from the college of Clongowes, to burn up all the combustibles of the system that had been seen by Moon-light, (their own system of priestcraft save and excepted) and this Comet has continued passing through and around our part of the solar system ever since, burning up the church and corporations without mercy, and sparing no abuse whatever upon which the Moon had previously shed her beam, save that of the Rosary, the litany of St. Mary of Mount Carmel, and the bones of St. John the Baptist, reserved as an antidote to those infidel impurities with which the Reformation has so sensibly impregnated the Protestant atmosphere of the British Islands! and to the infallibility of this antidote every Protestant head must bow, as its efficacy is self-evident.\*

The trade of that part of the city called "the liberty," once the principal seat of its manufactures, perished also. Houses that would let for £60, or perhaps £80, a-year, prior to the Act of Union, and even after it, would not now bring £20, and some not more than £10. That once eminently flourishing section of the city, and the streets approximating with it, soon assumed the appearance of a spacious lazaretto; and with the appearance, the general spread of misery and mendicity, of filth, famine, and infection, (including a perpetual succession of endemic diseases,) perfectly correspond, as any one may see who will read the letter of Dr. Orpen, the medical inspector of the poor, on that subject. And finally, the Royal Exchange, at which *the mock meetings* alluded to were held, is now the residence of an auctioneer; and was the seat of a dancing-school when this work was preparing for the press; two very appropriate employments, it is true, for an Irish Exchange, as the auctioneer can be called upon at any moment to bring the last expiring remnant of our manufactures to the hammer; and when the blow has been struck, the merry andrew would prove useful in dancing the remnant down to the water edge for exportation to the foreign market. (*Vide America and Flanders*, in Mr. Dalton's letter in the Trades' Report just noticed.)

\* The above is in allusion to the Comet, weekly newspaper, which appeared

Having now touched upon the circumstances by which the Moon was finally extinguished, (and which, during her brief and rapid revolutions, shed equal and impartial light upon the saints and sinners of every sect and party) we must next apologise to the reader for being compelled, in the discharge of our duty to our country, to introduce divers of our own personal concerns into our picture of the press; as by these, more eminently than by any other means, the author of this work was brought into close contact with that immense machine, and his attention forcibly attracted to its secret springs of action. And although long before he had any professional connection with the press, the glaring contradictions of the newspaper department had caught his eye, (as they must have caught the eye of every intelligent reader) still he did not feel it his business, when a very young man, to assume the office of a censor; and his numerous and embarrassing avocations in after life, rendered it totally impossible to devote his time and faculties to an examination of those perpetually multiplying documents, upon which alone the truth of its corruption could be established. This will prove his apology to the reader for the smallness of the number of examples of corrupt partiality and injustice which he shall presently charge home upon the press of Dublin, and for his own personal concernment in the greater part of these transactions. The more full and effectual discharge of the great public duty of placing the press of Dublin upon a sounder base, must fall upon the conductors of a national newspaper review; but for the faithful and effectual maintenance of such an institution as this, no man, or body of men, can be fit, however rich, or however learned, who have any intimate connection with, or personal interest in, the corruptions of the law, the church property, or the priestly

soon after the Moon expired; took a similarly bold and eccentric course (with the exception of a saving clause in favour of Popish impostures,) and being edited, and we believe chiefly supported in the literary department, by gentlemen connected with, or educated at the Jesuitical college of Clongowes, the force of the above allusion is self-evident.



establishments of the country, as their own personal concernment in such institutions, or their educational prejudices in their favour, would always act as a bar to the faithful discharge of their duty, as impartial and independent reviewers; and even without a consciousness of crime, would so frequently ascend to the surface of their labours, as completely to defile the current of their writings, and finally render them useless as a correction of the abuses of the press.

A Dublin newspaper review must therefore, if it should ever be formed in that city upon just principles, be placed under the direction of men of independent minds, totally unconnected with the parties of the country, as by such men, and by such only, the dignified castigation of a corrupt press, can be effectually executed.

Nor should this humble effort of the author to procure for his country such a new and useful institution, be rejected, because the reformer who stands forward to procure this protection for the people against the impostures which surround them, has not the same claims to popularity as those of a Daniel O'Connell, supported by the Catholic church, in whose bosom he was born; or those of a Lord Mandeville, distributing arms to the orange lodges of the North of Ireland. Let those who look for *splendid* claims to public attention, remember the honest and persecuted people, who laid the foundations of American liberty and prosperity in the sound morality of their institutions, and who, in their native country, were not permitted to enjoy the indulgence that was freely granted to the dogs in the kennels of their oppressors, and to the proud and lofty coursers in their stalls! Let the Catholics of Ireland, who were themselves an oppressed people, be the last to object to the nature of *his claims* to the honest approbation of his country, because he could not in conscience travel with the factions, and because he rendered the duties which he owed to his country, subservient to those (and to those only) which he owed to his conscience and his God. Let them remember that an act

of injustice committed against the lowest citizen, will soon be committed against the highest, when it can be done with similar impunity; and that to stifle any portion of public opinion by a contemptuous silence, or by a factious or sectarian conspiracy, or to give false impressions to the public, of speeches and writings, or of the feeling exhibited in public assemblies, when that feeling happens to be hostile to the sinister purposes of the press and its confederates, is not an offence committed merely against the individuals who are misrepresented, but against a nation that is deceived. And although, in the corrupt exercise of its freedom, the press may take shelter under the wing of legal protection, and a generous liberty of choice upon the one hand, and that of the ignorance which it deceives, and the prejudice which it feeds, upon the other; still the effluvia issuing from its *internal rottenness* is not lessened by the absence of the sense of smelling on the part of its supporters, nor by the similar rottenness with which their constitutions may be infected, nor by the pity and indulgence of the laws, nor by that generous sense of liberty which a Protestant state derives from nature and the Reformation. Rather its crimes are augmented, and rendered more odious, by its gross and scandalous abuses of that liberty, which a generous age and country have deposited in its hands, and which (to the glory of the Reformation) is so fully enjoyed in the Protestant Islands of Great Britain, that an humble caricaturist, who has his bread to earn by his art, may procure his beef-steak and his bottle, even by a joke upon the King.

Has it not been frequently asserted, by that (falsely) called the liberal press of Dublin, that the speeches made by Mr. O'Connell in the House of Commons, in his efforts to obtain justice for his country, have sometimes been totally overlooked; and at other times shamefully garbled by the press of England; and if these accusations of the Dublin press (of the truth or falsehood of which we know nothing) were in reality well founded; was not this conduct of the English

press a gross offence against the Irish nation, and even against the English public itself, who had a right to be accurately informed of all that was passing in the Legislative Assembly of the nation; as otherwise how could they form a just opinion of our rights, and of the claims which we have to the sympathy and co-operation of our English brethren in the pursuit of justice? If the Catholic press of Dublin believe that this conduct of their London contemporaries, proceeded from a deeply rooted prejudice against O'Connell and his country, why do they exhibit the same mean and unmanly antipathy themselves, towards Protestants of unquestioned patriotism, honestly contending for the right of Ireland to a just and generous participation in all the benefits of the state? Is it because these Protestants have written and spoken against Popery, that their patriotic efforts to promote the interests of their country, have been studiously cushioned? And if so, with what shew of consistency can these bigoted journalists, calling themselves *liberal*! talk or write (as the hypocrites frequently have the effrontery to do) about the religious or political bigotry of an English or Irish Protestant press, with such stains as these resting upon their acts, and written in conspicuous characters upon their foreheads?

If they deny this charge, we ask them how it happened, that in their report of the proceedings of the Trades political union in Dublin, they should *totally overlook* one of the most important questions for a revival of the trade of Ireland, (a *co-operation* for that purpose, proposed to be commenced in the Trades union of Dublin, and gradually extended from that city to all the counties of the coast) that was ever brought before the consideration of any Irish association whatsoever? Was it because the mover of this measure was a writer against Popery? (This question, we fear, is a nail in a sure place, and we leave it to the hammer of their *hypocrisy* to force it from their plank.) Important? yes, the most important ever brought before any Irish association for the revival of Irish trade. And why? First, because the plan, if carried



into effect, would have given more or less employment, through all the co-operative societies planted in the country, to unemployed operatives and their families in every district; (it being a regular rule of all such societies to consume their own productions, in addition to all which they can sell to others, and that would be a great deal.) Secondly. Because as these societies increased, (and they would rapidly increase) the means of employment would increase with them. Thirdly. Because, in a regular ratio with the march of these societies, the manufactures of Ireland, of every description, would march with them. Fourthly. Because these societies (if conducted by wholesome laws) would not only prove useful to themselves and to the whole country, in the department of trade, but in the equally important departments of intelligence and moral order, without which they could not be successfully conducted: and for proof of this truth, we have only to refer to the institutions of this nature, established in England, and at Belfast, in Ireland, where the intelligence and industry of the members will bear to be examined; and the books and newspapers introduced into their meeting rooms, as the societies have advanced in wealth, are sufficient evidence of the useful influence of these institutions upon the public mind; but as they are not exactly the element for briefless lawyers and other orators, to bring themselves into public notoriety under the condescending patronage of some great leader, (a mode of trading upon the feelings and passions of the people, peculiarly suited to the meridian of Dublin) this modest and unpretending plan for reviving the trade of Ireland, and giving employment to the bulk of her artizans, was, as might be expected, *very coldly received*, even by that which calls itself the “National trades union” of a ruined country! Fifthly. Because the means of originating and universally extending these most important institutions to the trade of Ireland, and the comfort of her artizans, had no impediment to encounter in the laws, and very little in the amount of the funds essential for the commencement of a co-operative society in any county; as a

subscription of sixpence per week from a thousand inhabitants, would, in twelve months, form a sufficient capital to commence with, (and poor as Ireland is, we are almost certain that we underrate the average number of subscribers that would be found in all her counties) and thus the nucleus of a great home trade would be at once formed; and Ireland, by the cheapness of her labour, and her constantly accumulating capital, would soon rise independent of foreign manufactures; and not only so, but in due time she would give England enough to do, with all her superior advantages of capital, system, and science, to beat her sister island out of the foreign market.

Lastly. As it is a universal rule of these institutions, (if our information be correct) that the profits of trade shall be added to the thus constantly accumulating capital of the companies, (unless in such cases of *absolute necessity* as shall oblige a member to withdraw his name and his property altogether from the society to which he had belonged) only think for a moment, what an altered aspect Ireland would present to the eye of patriotic benevolence, in the short space of seven years after this machine had been set in motion, and how much better and happier the whole population would become, if a fourth of the time and talent of the political leaders of the people were steadily exerted to give birth and maturity to such a useful practical system of national regeneration; and whether this mode of benefiting Ireland would prove more substantially useful to her children, than the empty political husks (we do not mean empty to the orators, for they milk the prejudices of the people to some purpose) with which these gentlemen have long fed a hungry, a beggared, and a humbugged population, let the public judge.

This was the measure which the *liberal* press of Dublin (though their reporters were on the spot taking notes of the proceedings) thought proper, in the depth of their sapient discernment, most profoundly to overlook. But the motion came from the author of this work—and the author of this

work was a known enemy of priestcraft — and to fill up the measure of his iniquity, if that were wanted, he had pointed his poor puny porcupines against the abuses of the press, (to be sure they were puny, because he had no faction to support him, and he could not purchase human favour by the sacrifice of his duty,) and lastly, the measure contained no inflammatory appeal to the passions of the people, although calculated to promote those substantial interests of the country, from which the author himself could derive no other benefit, than that of the pleasure which the prosperity of his country would afford him.

If the liberal press of Dublin conceived this plan to be *impracticable*, they should have first done justice to the mover and his measure, by a fair statement of the case, and then started their objections, which he would have been bound to answer. But whether the cause of their wilful oversight of the measure lay here, or whether it lay in the former bigoted, and much more likely ground of objection; on either horn of this dilemma we presume to place them; and whatever imaginary consequence they may derive from the importance of their party, or the supposed value of their establishments; or whatever measure of *contempt* they may feel it *convenient to assume*; on that horn we immoveably fix them, and request our countrymen will look at them narrowly in that position, by a peep into their curious reports of the trades proceedings on Tuesday, January 3, 1832, when the author of this work (then a member of that union) brought forward his co-operative question. In like manner we request our fellow citizens of the trades who were present in the arena on the 15th of the same month, when he submitted his motion for supplying the members of the union with printed copies of the financial reports, and a printed schedule of the rules of regulation (as no one could remember long-winded reports from hearing them read; and for law, we saw none there, save the will of a few leaders, who, with this flourishing democratic motto placed over their bench, “*Jura et leges equales*,” put down and brought forward by virtue of



their sovereign authority, whomsoever and whatsoever they thought proper.) We request our brethren of the trades, we say, to compare the Freeman's report of this proceeding, with the facts of the case (to which many of them were eye witnesses,) and which were shortly these, that almost the whole meeting, composed of a thousand or fifteen hundred persons, clamoured so loudly for the printed reports, and crowned the motion and the arguments which supported it, with such loud and repeated plaudits, that Mr. Walsh (one of the most talented and popular officers in the union) could scarcely obtain permission to reply!\* To upset the arguments produced in support of his resolution, even the vigorous intellect and extensive information of Mr. Walsh, was not able to accomplish—there was too much truth in them; he therefore made an appeal to what he was pleased to call “the good sense of Mr. Atkinson to withdraw his motion.” It was his *good nature* he should have said, as the officers were in a *hobble*. In this sense it was taken; and as the

\* Why was a printed account of the laws and the money matters refused, since each copy would cost but a few pence, which each member who wished to receive it might pay for in advance? Or has the union become a job in the hands of a few speculators, (like some other institutions of the country, against which its leaders so loudly brawl) and was the publication of its financial affairs in a printed form, therefore resisted?

If any portion of the public money should be given to the press, or to any individuals for public services, why not avow it, since the object is a fair one? although to bribe the press in order to render it tributary to the schemes of individual leaders, or to any false or corrupt proceeding, would not be quite so suitable for exhibition in a printed statement. Did not the Catholic association make the bribery of the press a public and professed part of their system; and why not, in the pursuit of a legitimate object? In the open avowal of any design there is a manliness which commands confidence, while secrecy generates suspicion and distrust. The same open and candid course is pursued by the collectors of the O'Connell tribute. Let the leaders of the trades union imitate it.

On finding that printed reports were not supplied to the union, the author renewed his notice of motion for a second discussion of the question; but on the evening when it should have been debated, the question was suppressed; and a conspiracy to resist it being evidently formed, the mover retired from the union, as Mr. O'Gorman, a most respectable member had done before him, on grounds of dissatisfaction which it is not necessary to repeat.

person appealed to happened to have the heart of a good natured fool within him, he withdrew his motion on an understanding that the forthcoming quarterly report would give every one the financial information that was needful; and thus when the mover had victory on his finger ends, three-fourths, if not seven-eighths, of the house being with him, he yielded the cause of the people to the wishes of the officers, who never printed a single return; and, from that time forth, good and secure arrangements were made, that the same question of *finances* never should have the honour of a second hearing from the same quarter; and a Mr. Corrin, or Curran (a person totally unknown to us) who also mooted it, was hunted down. But as we only notice these transactions in reference to the Dublin press, let us see how the Freeman's report of the proceedings corresponded with the facts of the case, as they occurred in that meeting. The following is an exact copy. "Mr. Atkinson brought forward in a *very lengthy* speech his resolution that the expenditure, rules, regulation, and present state of the union, be now printed, and given to each member on paying two-pence. On the motion being put and seconded, Mr. Walsh rose, and proceeded to address the meeting in a very *forcible and impressive* speech. He repudiated the charge of partiality and favouritism imputed to the *committee* by Mr. Atkinson, and after an able vindication of the officers and the committee of the union, put it to the good sense of Mr. Atkinson, to withdraw his resolution, to which Mr. Atkinson acceded, having learned that the committee would present their quarterly report on the 2d of February."

Let us now analyse the above report. First, the speech of the mover was not "very lengthy," but it was long enough, and not too long, to convince more than a thousand people that the resolution was a good one, and necessary, not only as an act of justice to the members, but also to the purity and prosperity of the union, and to the spread of its moral influence, as an honest patriotic association; and that this

was the opinion of the meeting was clearly proved by its repeated plaudits, and its publicly expressed displeasure with the resistance of Mr. Walsh, who, notwithstanding that he is a vice-president, and highly popular, found himself so overpowered with the clamours of the people, that he turned towards the mover and said, "if Mr. Atkinson were addressing himself to the meeting, I should endeavour to procure him a hearing, (which the mover did endeavour to do, and finally succeeded.) Now, concerning all this, which literally took place, the Freeman was profoundly silent, from which we justly infer that its object was to give a false and mutilated statement of the proceedings, and thereby to fix an erroneous impression of this particular transaction upon the public mind; and whether the subject of discussion had much or little merit to recommend it to public notice, the corrupt principle of such a mode of reporting is precisely the same.

#### MISREPRESENTATION THE SECOND.

Mr. Walsh's speech on that occasion, was neither "forcible" nor "impressive," since, with all his advantages of popularity, eloquence, and office, it did not convince the meeting; for if it had, he need not have applied to Mr. Atkinson to withdraw his motion, as a majority of votes in Mr. Walsh's favour would have floored the question.

#### MISREPRESENTATION THE THIRD.

Mr. Walsh did not "repudiate the charge of partiality and favouritism imputed to the committee by Mr. Atkinson," because Mr. Atkinson imputed no such thing to the committee, of whose acts he knew nothing. His charge of corruption and fraudulent dealing was made very plainly and homely against the press, for its wilful and corrupt oversight of the co-operative question; and he also charged a tool of the leaders with having acted partially and corruptly in the chair; all of which he was there ready to prove to their faces—and he insinuated pretty plainly his opinion, that these corruptions could not exist if the officers did their duty; but



against the committee he made no charge whatever, as he knew nothing of their acts at that time; and when the treasurer and others pressed him strongly to become a member of the committee, on the discussion of this question, he refused compliance, (not for want of inclination to serve his country, or the city of his birth,) but because he would not like to take office, or serve in any institution, great or small, that he did not think was founded upon just and open principles.

#### MISREPRESENTATION THE FOURTH.

Mr. Walsh's "vindication of the officers" was very far from being an "able" one. It did not take the neck of his brother Vice-president, the aforesaid Chairman, out of the halter of a true charge. His apology for the press, or his denial of the officers' connexions with it, or their accountability for the mode of reporting the proceedings of the union, came very suspiciously out of the mouth of a man who had volunteered his services as the advocate of the Freeman's Journal, in a quarrel with the president, and with this quarrel he had convulsed a large meeting of the union, very much against its will. The whole, in fact, of the Freeman's report above noticed, goes to give a totally *false* colouring to the transaction which it professes to represent, and if this has been the case in an affair of comparatively trifling interest, (as to be sure the public will regard it) how shall the reports of the most respectable journals in Dublin be depended upon in affairs of greater moment?

#### THE SECOND SPECIMEN OF CORRUPTION.

So much for this first specimen of the *purity* of the Dublin press. Let us now notice another, in which Mr. Walsh himself was personally concerned, and the author of this work was not. We beg to inquire by what *accident* it happened (we are not now referring to the Freeman, but to one or two other *Liberals* of the same *batch*) that in a meeting held a little before this time at Home's mart or hotel, in Dublin, on an important public subject, that an exceedingly

“lengthy” speech of Mr. Barret, of the Pilot newspaper, should have been given in a full length portrait in the Register, and of course in the Pilot (they being chips of the same block, and printed and published in the same house), and that a speech of Mr. Walsh’s on the same occasion, should have been shab’d off with a dry and empty compliment to its ability! Was it that Mr. Barret’s speech was full of *meaning* and Mr. Walsh’s *empty*? Not at all—things do not go that way—but as some speeches must be omitted in a large meeting where many speak, a selection is made—according to the weight and importance of the speeches?—not at all—but according to the weight and importance of the *persons*. And as a school master (that is Mr. Walsh’s profession) does not weigh quite so heavy in the scale of public estimation as an Editor; the honest conductor of the Pilot (as a matter of course, and one altogether well understood) thought it quite fair, in his report of this meeting, to shove Mr. Walsh *out*, and let himself *in*; and consequently, we beg to inform the government, and all sticklers for place in the state, that if they imagine they have got a monopoly of the *ins* and the *outs*, they are quite mistaken; since every little cabal in Dublin, in this particular, imitates their high example. In this meeting the speeches of Mr. O’Connell, Mr. Henry Grattan, (the chairman) Mr. Curran, (son of the justly celebrated Curran) &c. were all regularly given, because they are all men of weight; and next to them, in point of rank, was the Editor of the Pilot; and after justice had been done to all these, and the space allotted to the meeting filled up, poor Mr. Walsh, and another gentleman of some talent, were shoved out. So much then for the *ins* and the *outs* of this meeting.

#### SPECIMEN THE THIRD.

The third charge relates, neither to the concerns of Mr. Walsh, nor to those of the writer of this work; but to a subject of much more importance than either of their personal concerns; namely, the misery and diseases propagated in

the city of Dublin, by the poverty and utter destitution of the working classes.

Dr. Orpen, apparently a gentleman of great humanity, and exceedingly well qualified to fill the office of medical inspector, to which he was appointed by the Irish government some years since, when a contagious distemper was raging in the city; having, in the discharge of his duty, been brought into contact with more misery, filth, and infection, than he had anticipated, and finding the poor people whom he visited, unable even to procure the whey that was necessary as a vehicle to their medicine, published a report of the destitute state of the sick poor of Dublin in a pamphlet, in order if possible to draw the attention of the wealthy to their deplorable condition; and vainly supposing that the Dublin press would enter heartily into his views, he ordered the type of his pamphlet to be kept standing, for the purpose of supplying copies, as a supplementary sheet to the newspapers, which, he very justly concluded, would be the best possible way of making the then existing condition of the sick poor known to the people who could relieve them. The newspaper men, however, had no idea of becoming godfathers to the poor, in the discharge of a duty for which they had no compensation to receive, save the approbation of Heaven; and therefore instead of adopting the Doctor's supplementary sheet, and forwarding it to their subscribers in town, as he expected, one of them addressed to him a very "uncourteous" letter, (this was the modest term given to that letter by the Doctor) and six of these gentlemen treated his application with silent contempt!!! After this specimen of the virtue of the Dublin press, the public need not wonder at the other acts of illiberality, with which we are about to charge them; and which in comparison of this piece of inhuman cruelty (and let it be recollected that Dr. Orpen, with an *enormous* salary of £50 a-year for his services, had printed and circulated a thousand pamphlets at his own expense, besides the money which he could not avoid giving out of his own pocket to the poor in extreme cases.) After



this, we say, every other charge against that press sinks, in point of turpitude, into comparative insignificance. The eye of heaven has, however, marked the conduct of this press, and its providence will perhaps, at no distant day, prepare the elements of a just and impartial censorship for the correction of its vices.

We have often heard it said, that when —— fall out, honest men have some chance of coming by their own. Let the reader who believes that good may be brought out of evil, cast his eye over the following extract of a letter published in the *Morning Register* of September 25, 1832; and supposed to have been written by Mr. Costello, the president of the Trades Union, on the corrupt conduct of a Mr. Lavelle, the reputed proprietor of the *Dublin Freeman's Journal*. "I complain" said Mr. Costello, "that Mr. Lavelle suppressed all that portion of public meetings in which I bore a part, and this outrage upon the public, was committed under the influence of vile personal hatred. I do not pretend to attach any peculiar value to my sentiments, but they sometimes constituted a part of public proceedings, and he who wilfully suppresses mine, violates a principle in my person, which compromises every public man, and every public question. What one paper may do, many may conspire to do—what would justify the wilful suppression of one man's name, would be applicable to another. Suppose a conspiracy of the press. There was a conspiracy of the London press against Mr. O'Connell, when he first entered the British parliament—who can forget the natural, the just indignation of the Irish public? Would the same thing be impracticable in Dublin, if all were actuated by the dark malignity of the *Freeman*? There are but five papers in Dublin in the supposed interests of the people; in fact but four—the *Pilot*, *Register*, *Comet*, and *Repealer*,—for I count the hollow trading treachery of the *Freeman* as worse than open hostility. Suppose, I say, the few papers in Dublin conspired, what public Irish measure could they not strangle? what public man could they not render useless?—O'Connell

himself; nay, Repeal of the Union might be strangled by suppression. Suppression produced the three days of Paris; the crimes against public liberty of the despotic Charles and the infamous Polignac were—not that they forced newspapers to publish sentiments contrary to the public wishes, but that they suppressed by force, sentiments conformable to the public wishes. What is the difference of injury to the people, whether it be the despot who tyrannically suppresses, or the editor who treacherously excludes? If a newspaper publish a false statement, even that, bad as it is, gives an opportunity for detection; but he who takes a newspaper, supposing he will have in it a faithful “brief chronicle of the times,” has no resource against suppression, for he is plundered of knowledge, without suspecting the theft. Against every other editorial sin he may be guarded, but against suppression he has no resource.

“The great, the capital sin of the press, then, is SUPPRESSION!!! It is unmixed, unpardonable, irredeemable treachery.

“I have now gone as far as I thought necessary for my own vindication, and have studiously avoided personal recrimination. It will, I know, be said by those who would be disposed to find fault with me, do what I would, that I ought not to assail a ‘friend to the cause,’ for this is the cant, and defence of myself will be called promoting disunion; to this I answer that I was not the aggressor.

“Those, too, who will now be most pathetic in deploring disunion, were never heard to complain of it, when slanders were day after day published against me, or when these slanders were the exciting cause of placing two lives in danger, one of them (for I say nothing of myself) justly popular, and if either had fallen, the editor of the Freeman would have been the murderer. No, there were then no complaints about causing disunion; but now, when the aggressor is about (as my eloquent friend Mr. Reilly said) to fall into the pit he dug for me, then it is terrible to promote disunion.

“But I deny that it is disunion between the friends of the

people. I don't call Mr. Lavelle a *true* friend to the people. He has not the honesty, and if he had, he has not the character of mind, to be a safe or able public guide. Nature gave him the powers and propensities of low cunning, underplotting, and circumvention, but never endowed him with the expansion of mind to form a politician.

"There cannot be a more striking illustration of his character, as a journalist, than his conduct on Repeal.

"When reform was first introduced, and every wise man saw, and every honest man acted upon the principle of forbearance upon Repeal, for the sake of Repeal itself, the Freeman continued to rave about the question; but now, when the period is arrived when Repeal ought to be worked, he shrinks from the pledges. In the former case he availed himself of popular excitement, and his paper sold; in the latter he will be liberally rewarded by the advertisements of the Irish candidates, who will, no doubt, be grateful to the paper that assists them to evade the pledges.

"I have now done with the subject, defying my slanderer to sustain any charges against my public or private character.

"I shall pass unheeded dark insinuations and scurrilous epithets; but if a distinct charge be made, as I have refuted the past, so I shall triumphantly dispose of future calumnies.

"I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

"MARCUS COSTELLO.

"10, College-green."

#### SPECIMEN THE FOURTH.

In the year 1822, when we had the honour of embarking the limited measure of our knowledge, and the liberal measure of our love of justice, in that great question of church property reform, which now occupies the attention of the two countries (but which at that time was scarcely noticed by the Catholic interest of Ireland, and still less by the Protestant, to whom the tithe tax was so much less obnoxious.) About that time we published a Review of our country in London, under the title of "Ireland exhibited to England,"



in two vols. and here an opportunity was presented, of forming a comparison between the liberality of the press of London, and that of Dublin, our native city. Every member of the former press, who received and retained a copy of that work, gave to the public, either a concise review of its character and objects, or such extracts from it as were calculated to call the attention of their readers to the publication; and they did so freely, without any other compensation save that of the books which had been submitted to their inspection, and the pleasure which they derived from the discharge of a duty due to Ireland, and to the impartial and persevering labourer in the work of his country's regeneration.—Now when the value of the columns of a London journal, the enormous expense at which they are got up, and the heavy duty with which an English paper is encumbered, are duly considered, the generous space devoted by these journalists to a work on Ireland, deserves acknowledgment, as an act of justice to the country, and of generous liberality to the labourer in her cause; and the same acknowledgment is also justly due to the Liverpool Mercury and other papers, for their generous introduction of this work to the public view; and eminently so, to a large proportion of the Irish *provincial* press, which, without any distinction of high church or low church, or without stooping to consider the author's opposition to tithes or to priestcraft, *freely* lent their columns to his reviews of the country, and consequently, without any other compensation than that which their love of country, and the pleasure which they took in promoting the researches of an honest labourer in her service, afforded to their generous minds. On the author's return however from London to Dublin, (his native city) he submitted a copy of the aforesaid work, to the inspection of an old wily politician, at the head of a *then* very popular paper in the city; and who (no doubt, as it served his purpose) was a great Catholic association man at that time; although since that period, he has been, by his quondam associates ("all *honourable* men," as Anthony said) distinguished by the delicate and lady-like cognomen of "a

pensioned renegade from his country's cause!" but how far *the honest man* deserved this appellation, or whether he deserved it at all, we are not casuists enough to pronounce, and therefore leave the public to decide this question. Having presented our books with a low bow to this able *manœuvrer*, the gentleman received them with apparent politeness, and promised that justice should be done to the work, either by extract or review in his forthcoming numbers, (he knowing something of its character at that time from what he had read concerning it in the London papers.) The following post however brought his paper to the public, and the next post, and the post after, and many a succeeding post; until the author of the work perceiving the elements of which the *Patriot's* memory was composed, (somewhat similar to those promises of which Patriots complain, that are spoken to the ear and broken to the hope) he called at the office of the journalist, and resumed the possession of his books, as a hint to the man of letters, that although he had long travelled in the Moon, and spent many a painful hour in clambering over its hills and mountains, still he was not so ignorant of the business of this present world, as not to know that a material difference existed between meal and moonshine; and having given this gentle hint to the old wily politician, he placed his books under his arm, and left the man of *veracity* and letters to the undisturbed enjoyment of his *generous* reflections.

#### SPECIMEN THE FIFTH.

The justice and liberality of the Dublin press, however, did not end here. We had devoted much time and attention to the collection of materials for a review of the value of church property in Ireland, and found, from the best information we could collect in our travels, that the value of the lands of several sees had been greatly underrated by Mr. Wakefield (the estimate in whose Irish tour was generally received in England as a standard of their value), more particularly the primatical see of Armagh, put down in Mr.

Wakefield's estimate at £140,000 per annum: but which, if let without fines, like other farms, we had good authority for asserting, would bring a much larger annual income than the sum for which it had thus received credit in Mr. Wakefield's Tour. Agreeably to this information, we had an article prepared for publication in "Ireland exhibited to England," when a pamphlet appeared in London (apparently from the pen of a gentleman of extensive foreign connections,) which embraced, in a short statistical table, a comparison of the value of English church property, with that of all the other Christian states in the known world, (the value of the property of each state, with the number of the members of each church, being given in detail) and making the former £44,000 per annum more than all the other kingdoms of Christendom put together! Regarding this (as it was truly and laconically denominated to us, by a popular literary character in London) as a "smasher," we did not hesitate to make the Irish estimates of our own work (although we believe they were grounded, in some instances at least, upon better information than that of Mr. Wakefield, which had been adopted as the value of Irish church property in this universal estimate,) we did not; we say, whatever conviction we might entertain of their greater accuracy, or whatever time and labour we had bestowed upon the collection of these estimates, hesitate to make them yield to the superior importance of that universal table, which was so much better calculated to prove the enormity of our church abuses, by a comparison of those abuses with the practice of other nations, than any separate report of Irish church property, however full or however accurate.—We saw very clearly that this pamphlet, from the comprehensive nature of its plan, and the rare and unparalleled extent of information which it contained, had by an irresistible *coup de main*, laid prostrate that corrupt and oppressive image, which the utmost exertion of our energies could but barely touch. We therefore adopted it, regardless of the credit which might be fairly due to our previous researches on the



same subject; and 600 volumes of the work which we published in London, (with the statistical table of the church property of Christendom, copied into our pages, under the head of "Tithes,") arriving in Dublin soon after, the statistical table alluded to was obviously pirated from thence by divers of the Dublin journals, for we never saw a single copy of the pamphlet from which we extracted it, on sale in Ireland. Nor should we blame the newspaper press of Dublin for a piracy of this nature, where the object was the public good, had they candidly acknowledged, as we did, the name and publisher of the work in London, to which they were indebted for the important information they had received. But this would be giving the author of that work the credit of his industry and love of justice; and consequently, as two advantages were derivable from the concealment of his name and books, that of robbing a heretic of his merit, and clothing our own jackdaws with the plumes which we had stolen from his books, we, the Dublin liberal newspaper press, knew our business too well to introduce his anti-priestcraft pages to the notice of the Irish public through our columns, by any such act of justice; no, not even although the mines of India had been conveyed, through these vicious and heretical compositions, to the poor of Ireland!

But the evil did not end here; for on perceiving the proofs of the piracy that had been committed, and the total silence of the Dublin press as to the name of the premises from whence the goods had been stolen, we drew up a few lines explanatory of the case; and in some years after presented them for publication to a swaggering mock-liberal in the north, who declared "*'pon his honor*," the home charge should appear in his next number. The fellow, however, forgot his *honor* in the hurry of his press, or in the cunning of his policy, or perhaps in the *paper* battles in which he was soon afterwards engaged, and which he pompously exhibited under the heads of No. 1, 2, 3, 4, &c. as answers to the messages of a brother journalist whose fire he avowed himself ready to meet on any ground, Irish or Scotch, that

was *safe* and *tenable*, when the preliminaries of war had been fairly and finally arranged. Thus was the *home charge* lost sight of in the prevalence of the printer's *honor*, and in the hurry of the duelling *bombast* in which he was thus pompously engaged.

## SPECIMEN THE SIXTH.

We next come to a pamphlet which we published in the spring of 1830, (and now republish in this work) in the form of a letter to the King, on the subject of a local parliament in Ireland for purposes of domestic improvement. Mr. Morgan, of the *Newry Examiner* (a good judge), who read this letter soon after it came forth, gave the substance of its facts and doctrines to the *Ulster* public, in a very long article in a succeeding number of that able and talented journal which he conducts; but although copies of the same letter were presented to two or three members of that called the liberal press of Dublin, who were all strong advocates for a local parliament in Ireland, yet we never saw a single extract from, or comment upon it, in any of the journals of that city, notwithstanding their zealous advocacy of the question which that pamphlet espoused.

Now if any honest and independent Irishman, who is sufficiently acquainted with the affairs of his country, and of sufficiently masculine understanding to trample the mean bigotries of his religion under foot, will read that letter to the King with calm attention, and with a just consideration of the persons, and their principles, for whom it was intended, he will soon discover whether the effort which we then made, to defend the rights and liberties of Irishmen against the monopolies which oppress them, deserved to be rejected, because Popery (as a bugbear in the Protestant eye) had been handled with as little ceremony as any other topic in that letter.

Through the whole course of our public labours, it has been our constant aim to stand upon the centre of the beam of justice, and in all we said or wrote, to preserve the *equi-*

*librium*, and protest against a preponderance of corruption upon either side. But this is a course that will not do in Ireland; where, if Aristides should rise from his grave, and come to settle, he would vainly expect that his *justice* would prove an all-powerful passport to the favour of our leaders, or our press. Being a liberal in our politics, and in our religion a Protestant of so determined a stamp, that we protest against Popery and persecution in all churches, we made it a point of duty to speak and write, as we thought and acted. This is what we call LIBERTY; nobly granted to the people by English law, but rejected (in practice, and falsely professed in theory,) by a large proportion of those Irishmen at the head of our cabals, who loudly clamour for what they call EVEN-HANDED JUSTICE!!—This, however, is a species of justice, that, if we possessed the power, we would grant to all the men, and all the nations in the world. We would allow them to speak for themselves in courteous language, through every visible medium of communication with their country; and thus speaking, we would not conspire, by fraud or foul play of any kind, to drown their voices; no, not even although these voices might be conscientiously directed against the subversion and overthrow of our own principles!—And why? because if these principles are wrong, they deserve to be overthrown; and if right, they are indestructible, and cannot be extinguished.

#### THE SEVENTH AND LAST SPECIMEN,

(being exactly a charge for every star placed as a guard around the Moon, while passing through the hells of Dublin.)

We now proceed to the last specimen of the spirit of the Dublin press, with which we shall trouble the reader in this brief outline; and we do so the more freely, because it presents us with an opportunity of offering a tribute of respect to the memory of one of the most amiable and liberal men that we ever saw connected with the press of Dublin; we mean the late Thos. Power, Esq., Editor of the Freeman's Journal.



This gentleman, when the Brunswickers of Dublin (at the meeting already noticed) not only refused us a fair hearing, but were on the point of proceeding to acts of personal violence, until a peace-officer stepped up to do his duty, spiritedly published our defence in a long article of two columns in the Journal just noticed, although, (as Mr. H. a gentleman of unfortunate celebrity in the newspaper history of Dublin, and then the editor of a journal in that city, well observed) "no other newspaper in Dublin would have published that article, *even as an advertisement*, for ten guineas."!! If this assertion was correct, (and Mr. H. had a good right to know the press of which he spoke,) the inference, in reference to the character of the Dublin press, of the factions by which it is supported, and in reference to the dignity of that mind, which had the spirit and the virtue to bid defiance to their corruption, is self-evident.

Power was a Catholic who thought and acted upon his own judgment. In an article in the Freeman, evidently directed against religious bigotry, and intended to promote a spirit of charity among Christians, he exhibited a disposition to receive as true, the doctrine of Origen, one of the Fathers (contrary to the creed of his own church), that future punishment would not be eternal! This was the man, who when the author of this work was assailed in a bigoted and violent assembly of the professors of his own religion, did not fear to publish his defence in the form of an appeal to the Protestants of Ireland. He knew that the author of this appeal was no bigot, and that in labouring to soften down the prejudices of the sects, and to promote a generous amalgamation of all parties in the state (the only foundation upon which Irish prosperity can be built) he was discharging a paramount duty to the state and to his country. Thus believing, and believing so upon good ground, the editor of the Freeman did not hesitate to publish the whole of that appeal in the writer's own language, notwithstanding the Pope and his religion were treated with as little ceremony in it, as any other system and its supporters, that the writer of

the appeal believed to have been essentially corrupted. This was Power's act; it evinced what we well knew before, that no narrow bigotry, no secret sentiment of injustice, preponderated in his noble mind; and were we to discover the same divine spark of justice in the Jew, or in the act of the poor Indian,

————— "whose untutored mind  
Sees God in clouds, or hears him in the wind."

we would pay no attention to the form of the casket, whether rude or polished, in which the jewel was enclosed, but would honour the diamond for its intrinsic value; and when dropping a tear upon the tomb where all that was earthly of that diamond lay, we would offer an aspiration to Heaven, that when purified from the dregs of nature with which it had been associated in this earthly mine, that its divine author would place it as a shining gem in the crown of that kingdom, into which no *base metal*, however emblazoned with the flowers of literature, will ever enter.

To conclude.—The spirit of faction in Ireland, to which the press of Dublin necessarily bows, has proved equally hostile to truth and freedom. To truth, because it is arrested in its progress by corrupt interests, and by a press, which has been placed by its spiritual and political controllers, as a partial eclipse upon the source of light. To freedom, because the mind is fettered in its operations by the prevalence of religious bigotry, by the more than Algerine despotism of the civil and ecclesiastical leaders of the factions, and by a consciousness that offence will be taken when it is not intended to be given, and that final injustice will be done.

To make true reports of all public proceedings is the obvious duty of a periodical press; but whether its reports are a faithful echo of what passes in review before it, and its selections determined by the sense and soundness of speeches and writings, or by the wealth, rank, and popularity of speakers and writers, let the public judge.

To deceive the country with regard to what is passing, to

suppress important truths, because they were written or delivered by proscribed persons; to give false or garbled reports, or even lying impressions of the manifestations of public feeling; are all high crimes and misdemeanors against the moral and intellectual interests of the commonwealth.

If all the frauds of this kind that have been committed by the press of Dublin against the interests of free inquiry (by which alone truth can be arrived at) could be collected together, they would probably fill the King's library; and with the aid of a short piquant commentary upon each job, would present to the friends of fun and frolic, the most copious and amusing literary treat, that perhaps any library in the world ever exhibited. To such a task as this, we well know that neither our time, or talents, or the measure of our information, is at all commensurate. The Moon therefore must transfer this job to the Comet, its successor in the work of fun; but we recollect that this blazing star has been transmuted into a Dublin periodical by the Jesuits, (who, the poor of our country believe can work miracles; while we, though honouring them as learned men, are of opinion, that at the worst they can only work miracles of private mischief; and, in these countries, where they have been hospitably entertained, we hope and trust they have not the will even to do this; although we cannot forget the object of their grand institute, nor the reported influence of their private miracles upon the life and health of the philanthropic Ganganelli.) The Comet being thus transmuted into a Dublin periodical, we cannot appeal to it for the execution of such a task, however bright its talent; as we are well aware that its sense of honour, would prevent it from turning King's evidence against that constellation of false lights, with which it is now publicly and professionally associated in THE GENERAL ECLIPSE.

As to our own personal concernment in these frauds and follies, they are, at our present advanced age, of little moment to us in any other point of view, than as they are



a national evil, and tend to suppress truth, and arrest the progress of freedom; of which, after all that has been said about it, there are few honest and independent advocates connected with the press of Dublin.

No tool of faction, or victim of religious bigotry, deserves the name of FREEMAN, or can either enjoy the mental dignity which freedom gives, or impart that gift to others, to which his own chain bound soul, however he may rant and flutter, is an utter stranger. The goddess of liberty equally abhors the baseness of the tyrant, and the darkness of the dungeon in which his slave is imprisoned; and she beholds with contemptuous scorn those tinsel ornaments of literature, by which *the slave is made to deceive his country* in her sacred name, that he may the more effectually rivet the chains of her spiritual degradation! (We know those chains well, for we have suffered much in acts of violent resistance to their degrading pressure,) and that this dungeoned impostor may derive from the ignorance, prejudices, and passions which he feeds, a rich harvest of *applause* from his *fellow-slaves*, and a still more valuable income of sterling treasure from their pockets.

When the press and its political leaders shall not only call for free enquiry, but support it by their acts (not in this or that solitary case, *as a bait to catch public confidence*, but always and in every case)—When they shall permit the light of publicly expressed opinion, to pass through them to the people, pure, as it proceeds from its individual source—When an honest man of any sect, or of no sect, may proclaim his opinions on any public subject, in any popular assembly in Ireland, without forfeiting his claims to the justice of the press, or to the confidence and affections of his country—When no mean and despicable conspiracy shall be entered into to suppress his opinions, because they are hostile to our own—When the same veracity and strict rule of equity shall be observed towards him, that the Irish press and public exercise towards their own partizans, religious and political—When this shall come to be the universal

practice of Ireland and her press, we shall then say, but not until then, that OUR COUNTRY IS FREE.

#### POOR LAWS.

Ireland is not in a capacity to receive poor laws upon the English principle; for upon that principle the intended charity would eat up the whole rental of the land. The principle of those laws in England is also partial and unjust. It throws the whole weight of a burthen upon one order (the landed interest,) which should be equally borne by all the property of the country. The mode of administering those laws in England, does also, to a very great extent, defeat the moral improvement to which alms-giving should be rendered subservient; namely, the administration of the legal alms by the hands (in many instances) of cold and unfeeling overseers, who (if report is to be credited) hate the objects of their care, regard them as a curse to the country, and have no feeling of humanity or sentiment of pity, to warm their hearts or regulate their conduct in the discharge of their official duties.

These are evils in the English poor law system that are deeply felt, and loudly complained of, in the sister country; and if parliament feel it necessary to enact poor laws for Ireland, as a check to the rapid march of mendicity in that country, they should give us a code for the maintenance of our poor, less liable to objection, than that by which the poor of England are provided for under the existing system.

The outline of such a code having frequently presented itself to our view, we here present it to the public, and trust, *that* brevity, competency, and union of freedom with simplicity, by which the plan is distinguished, may recommend it to the notice of some advocate of Irish poor laws in the House of Commons, who can re-touch or re-model it, for the purpose of making it his own, (a thing by no means uncommon in that honourable house) and thus, introducing it to the notice of his brother legislators, procure for it that support, which the rapid progress of mendicity in Ireland,

and the rapid influx of Irish labourers into England, appear to call for.

*A plan for the prevention of Mendicity in Ireland.*

We shall introduce this plan to the notice of the public, by an assumption of two obvious truths.

First. That in every civilized community, all who are able to labour should be provided with employment, (if they cannot procure it by their own exertions) and through fair compensation for that labour, be enabled to support themselves.\*

Secondly. That all who are destitute and unable to labour, should be supported by the community at large.

These we regard as two Christian axioms of moral duty; and upon these axioms we shall erect our temple of political charity, (some would say *justice*, and we believe they are right) which, like the axioms themselves, is simple, and composed of two parts.

The first part embraces employment for the healthy poor; and in Ireland that employment could be easily procured for unemployed labourers and their families, if the proprietors of waste lands (for the purpose of protecting their more valuable properties from an overwhelming taxation) would allocate a part of these lands (of which it is said there are four millions of acres in the country,) to the purposes of poor law colonies, giving the country a perpetual interest in them as an equivalent for the proprietor's proportion of the Irish Poor Law Tax. In the cultivation of these colonies, a large

\* Under the head of "fair compensation for labour," we beg to observe, that in order to preserve Irish labourers and their families from sinking into the mendicant classes, and thus becoming burthensome and even dangerous to the country, every Irish labourer should be empowered, by act of Parliament, to recover one shilling per day for the labour of every day, from the first day of March to the first day of November, and ten pence for each day in the four remaining months; and to the same end he should be protected against land jobbing extortion, by rendering it illegal for any farmer to charge any labourer or his family, more than at the rate of six pounds per acre (the ordinary rent of four acres of good land) for any con acre of potatoe ground, manured, or in the lea.



proportion of the labouring poor might be usefully engaged, and if any surplus of unemployed labourers remained, they should be employed by the grand juries of the counties, to repair the roads and bridges, and in such other public works as the several counties required; and in all these the labourers should receive good wages, and be left without any apology for that system of strolling mendicity, by which the families of absentee labourers are now supported in this country.

Secondly. In relation to the indigent poor in the several parishes who are unable to labour; or who (as widows and orphans) have been deprived of their natural protectors by death; if the law would give a power to twelve householders in every town, and to a similar number of landholders in every parish, to call annual meetings of the inhabitants, (one in the town for its poor exclusively, and one for the country, in the parish church or chapel) to ascertain by a committee of their body, (in whose hands the power of the meeting might be vested) the sum that would be sufficient to meet the necessities of the poor of the town and parish for the ensuing year, and to levy that sum, by an equal assessment on annual income of every description *above* a certain amount, (say £150. at least) the income of ecclesiastics, and the profits of trade and farming, of every description during the preceding year, included. This assessment to be levied by a graduated per centage upon income, on a scale something similar to the following.

The tax upon an income of £150. per annum, (for *under* this amount it would be *unjust* to encumber decent struggling families with such a tax) two per cent; upon an income of £200. per annum, three per cent; and at the same rate, until the income amounted to £300., and from this to £500. four per cent., and so on up to the largest income in the town or parish, no matter who might be the owner, whether merchant, landlord, or tenant; placeman or pensioner, priest or parson, presentee or absentee, barrister or attorney, &c.; since they all equally owe a duty to the poor,

and, when in the possession of a competent income, should be compelled to discharge this duty by the force of law, without favour or affection to any party or profession. Thus would the partial principle of the English poor law tax be avoided; for as all owe an equal duty to the poor, all property above a certain limited amount, should be rendered liable to discharge it. This is the dictate of common sense,—it is even handed justice,—it is a true and simple principle; as such it is on a level with the capacity, and would recommend itself to the plain good sense of the people who would have to administer the law; and if those political economists who have almost ruined the trade of England with their theories, should step forward to cloud and bewilder, with their scientific refinements, this policy of duty and common sense, so obviously due to the poor, they should be turned out of the house where they laboured to destroy charity, and pervert justice, with the strongest marks of public disapprobation and contempt.

If this mode of providing for the Irish poor had the force of law, the landlord would not be able to say, (as Mr. Daly, M. P. for the county of Galway, said to us in 1827, in relation to an estate which he holds in Kent) that *the whole rental* of his land on a certain year, had been eaten up by the parish poor! No individual would have it in his power justly to complain of the operation of the tax, since it would only alight upon property that could afford to pay it; and upon all such property with an even and equal hand; and as the tax payers themselves would in general be the administrators of the law, they would naturally take an interest in the prudent administration of their own funds; the small shopkeepers and farmers would see also that they were well applied, (as they would have a strong individual interest in the prevention of strolling mendicity, to say nothing of their feelings as Christians, and their sympathies as men;) and with these checks and motives the charity would be well administered, while the funds raised for its support would not only meet the evil to the inch, but

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would be pure from every trace of partiality and oppression.

The only unpleasant circumstances, that would be likely to attend the operations of this charity, would be the difficulty of ascertaining the value of individual income, and the objections that would be raised against the valuations of the acting committee; and against what some would call the intrusive and inquisitorial nature of the tax. We are perfectly aware that the best informed men composing the committee of a town or parish, (short of the information of the owner and a knowledge of his books) could only have common fame or presumptive evidence, to guide them in their estimate of individual income. The remedy for this defect of information is however short and simple. Let the committee have authority to wait upon every individual known, or supposed, to be a legitimate subject for the operation of the tax, and to demand in his own hand writing, (or that of his agent, if absent) an insertion in their book of the amount of his income during the preceding year; which if he do not give to their perfect satisfaction, let the law empower them to administer to him an oath confirmatory of his report, (subject, if false, to the punishment of perjury as in any other case,) and upon these premises, *the best that could possibly be collected*, let the committee of the town or parish raise the tax, and be empowered to enforce the payment by distress, if it should be evaded or resisted. If any should say that men of business and so forth, would be injured in their *credit*, by this exposure of their affairs, and that men of moderate fortune who cut a figure far above their means (partly by a robbery of the property and labours of the poor tradesman, whom they hate to pay; and of this kind of gentry there is a large store in the provinces south of Ulster)—if these should say they would be injured in their *consequence* by this exposure of their affairs, we have only to reply to these two classes (supposing to be *inevitable* the exposure which they dread, but which it is not,) that the solid advantages resulting to all *creditors*,



and the moral benefit resulting to all *hypocrites*, from an exposure of their false and fallacious shews of splendor, would be a noble and valuable equivalent to society, for the wound thus inflicted upon the private feeling of a fraudulent and deceitful pride; and to a Christian parliament (a wonder that we do not now look for in England, and which, we believe, never sat there, since *the most just and upright*, and yet the most despised and ridiculed parliament that England ever saw, was broken up,) would be a strong, and we were going to say, paramount motive, for incorporating in any system of poor laws intended for Ireland, this mode of levying its pecuniary resources.

The exposure, however, so much dreaded by the men of straw and bubble, is by no means an inevitable effect of this system, as some of these may vainly suppose. The same lock and key of *confirmation* with which we would supply the committee for the benefit of the poor and of the public, we would also, if deemed needful, place upon the tongues, and upon the books of the committee, as a security to the bucks and to the bankrupts, that their straw and bubble should not be publicly exposed: and although every year there should be a new committee to prevent corruption, (which would infallibly creep in, and very soon too, if there was a monopoly of the job,) yet, as every new committee should be *sworn to secrecy and impartial justice*, and, as none but these would have access to the books, the affairs of private individuals could never be known through this medium, beyond the boundaries of their immediate neighbourhood, and even there, only to a limited number of men of sufficient credit to serve the public in the important capacity just noticed.

Thus, might the poor of Ireland be provided for, by a just and equal tax, pure from oppression. Thus, might the poisonous tree of national mendicity be made to wither at the root. Thus, might the miser and oppressor be compelled to support the poor, as well as the industrious and humane, upon whom the burden now falls; and thus would the absentee be obliged to contribute, by his money or his waste

lands, to check the growth of that pauperism of his tenantry, which the expenditure of his income in a foreign country has contributed to produce.

No one can deny, that of all the fruit bearing plants of mendicity, with which Ireland has been exhausted, the tree of absenteeism has cast the widest shade, struck the deepest root, and, in reference to its power of propagating *barrenness*, has been the most prolific. Minor acts of legislation may abate this nuisance, but we should like to ask any sensible and impartial Englishman, whether he believes, in truth, that any measure short of a domestic legislature, would have sufficient force to uproot this stygian evil from the soil.

To the foregoing we shall add a summary of the evidence contained in the report of the Select Committee on the State of the Poor in Ireland, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed, July 16, 1830, as we find that summary in Dr. Doyle's invaluable letter to Thomas Spring Rice, Esq. a member of His Majesty's Government, on the establishment of a legal provision for the poor of Ireland, &c."

We shall offer no commentary on Dr. Doyle's summary of the evidence; it speaks for itself; but shall merely add, that the whole of his admirable letter should be read, and seriously considered, by every man of humanity possessing property and influence in Ireland; by every member of parliament, by every member of the press in both countries; but above all, by every member of His Majesty's government, upon whose measures mainly depend, the prevention of a final dismemberment of the British Empire, to which the discontents and disorders of Ireland may eventually lead.

Summary of the evidence given by the various witnesses examined by the Select Committee above mentioned. First. That a great portion of the labouring population is without employment. Secondly. That the average price of labour is about tenpence per day.\* Thirdly. That the labouring

\* We are almost certain that the average is not eightpence in Munster and Connaught, including all the advantages of turbary, with a cheap plot of ground, &c.

classes subsist on a species of food, capable only of supporting animal existence in the lowest state. Fourthly. That the supply of this food is precarious, and the failure of it attended with great suffering, arising from want and contagious diseases. Fifthly. That the number of destitute poor in Ireland is exceedingly great, and though few of them die of actual want, great numbers of them perish gradually of inanition, or are carried off by chronic or inflammatory diseases, produced by wet, cold, and hunger. Sixthly. That the expence of providing food for an Irish pauper, varies from two to threepence a-day; but in no case is found to exceed the latter sum. Seventhly. That, excepting fever hospitals, county infirmaries, dispensaries, and lunatic asylums, there is no provision made by law for the Irish poor. Eighthly. That the number of the unemployed as well as of the destitute poor, has been exceedingly increased, and their sufferings proportionably aggravated, by the system which has prevailed for some years, and still prevails, of ejecting the small tenantry from their holdings, and consolidating farms. Ninthly. That the burthen of supporting the poor and destitute, as they are now supported, is borne principally and almost exclusively by the industrious and middle classes of society. Tenthly. That it would be desirable so to equalize that burthen, as that it might be shared in just proportions by all the owners of property in Ireland. And lastly, that the legislature is imperatively called on by the actual state of the labouring classes, and of the destitute poor in Ireland, to devise some means whereby relief may be afforded to them.

N.B. The evidence of the witnesses, as contained in the foregoing summary, had not come under our observation, until long after the aforesaid treatise on the "POOR LAWS" had been written. The truth, however, of the substance of the summary, is well known to every one who knows Ireland, although an exception might be made to the average price of human labour, which should have been made provincial, and not national; as we believe it is not eightpence,



(perhaps not sevenpence,) and much less tenpence per day, in the provinces of Connaught and Munster, although in that of Protestant Ulster it is tenpence at least.

The following will be found a useful appendage to the foregoing treatise on the "Poor Laws."

#### MALTHUSIAN SYSTEM IN IRELAND.

During that period of our tour in the north-west district, in which Enniskillen was our head-quarters, we had an opportunity of conversing with a gentleman on the state of our country, who for some time (during the administration of the Duke of Northumberland) filled a public office in Fermanagh, and addressed, we believe, a spirited letter to the Irish government on the subject of a jury selected by him for the trial of certain persons accused of having been implicated in a party quarrel, in which the lives of certain of His Majesty's loyal subjects unfortunately happened to be lost. Before proceeding to detail this conversation (and which in justice to the poor of Ireland we publish) we shall briefly observe, that our opinion of the rule by which party quarrels should be tried in Ireland, exactly corresponds with that which was then reported to have been expressed by the Irish government, namely, that in a quarrel between Protestants and Catholics, an equal number of each party should be placed upon the jury intended to decide the question; as it is obviously unjust to place the destiny of a man on trial for his life or liberty, exclusively in the hands either of his friends or of his enemies (as it would be difficult, in a country where party feeling runs so high, to impanel a jury perfectly impartial.) Hence we infer, that juries in Ireland, deputed to try party quarrels, should be constituted on the same principle as that of a jury for the trial of a foreigner; half foreigners and half natives. This point being settled, evidently according to justice, we shall now proceed to detail the opinions of this gentleman on the state of Ireland, and on the travels and reports of tourists, which he regarded as

rather injurious than serviceable to his country, as these tourists had been so often deceived by those to whom they had recourse for information ; in proof of which he adverted particularly to the case of Mr. Wakefield. Had the opinions of this philosopher been peculiar to himself, we might then have afforded to pass them by, as the offspring of an eccentric intellect, to the merit of which no second individual would lay claim ; but as they are opinions not only received, but acted upon to the utmost extent of their power, by the anti-philanthropic Malthusians of Ireland, we shall give the substance of his remarks, as we received them from himself, and leave the reader to determine whether our LABOURS, or the reveries of such heartless philosophers as this, are most likely to prove useful to the trade and to the poor of Ireland.

In reporting this conversation, we shall adhere to the simple order of our memoranda, reduced to writing in Enniskillen, while the conversation was fresh in our recollection ; and shall add such remarks to our original notes, as may tend to place the subject as nearly as possible in its own just form and pressure, before the eye of the English reader.

### *Memoranda.*

Found, Mr. ——— totally adverse to the object of our researches in this county, and for the following reasons—

First, “because there is not much coal in Fermanagh,” (he did not advert to Tyrone, the adjoining county, which abounds with coal) “and the little which has been discovered is unfit for fuel.” Secondly, “because Captain Cox, the conductor of the Leatrim mines, had been murdered,” (he did not say that a too expensive system of living, and some say, scenes of intemperance and disorder, had been permitted amongst the workmen ; or that a vigilant police and other necessary precautions, had not been sufficiently attended to ; or that English money, as some thought proper to report, had been used to corrupt the workmen, and to produce ruin to the works—he did not say any of these things, though

some others did, but whether truly or falsely we know not; but he added) "and if other conductors of such public works should come here, they would be murdered also." In reply to this objection, we did not advert to the peaceful and successful management of the lead mines at Kildrum, in the neighbouring county of Donegal, because we had not entered upon a review of that county when the conversation occurred; nor yet to the perfect security of many public establishments in the county of Antrim, in the same province, and in the neighbouring county of Tyrone; all of which are peacefully and successfully conducted, notwithstanding all the murders and burnings of the South and West. Thirdly, "because the Irish are a semi-barbarous people, and cannot be reclaimed so long as their demagogues continue to agitate them." Fourthly, "because the general fact of our minerals and fossils is already sufficiently known in England, and every effort to call the attention of that country to the natural history of particular districts of Ireland, is useless, as the English monied interest know us too well to commit their lives or their properties to the tender mercies of our savage population." The gentleman, however, did not advert to various English houses that are now doing business in Ireland; nor did he remark that English purchasers of our mineral districts, might employ English and Scotch miners in the first instance, and as they found well conducted Irish peasants (and even English farmers would acknowledge there are some such) gradually initiate them into the mysteries of their trade. Neither did he say, (as we think he might,) that by the maintenance of good order, and a strong and vigilant police upon the ground, all useful public works could be well and sufficiently protected in most districts of this country, (notwithstanding the perils which we well know are to be encountered in some others,) witness the county of Kilkenny, where, though many lives were recently lost in a conflict between the police and the people upon a tithe question, the collieries at Castlecomer



have been well and peaceably conducted for a long course of years.\*

Fifthly, "that all such efforts are delusive in reference to Ireland, as they tend to raise an expectation that is not likely to be realized." Sixthly, "that these objections being well founded" (we have already partly showed how well) "a geological survey and map of the mountain districts, would be a work of supererogation, and connected with an expence that would be better applied to other purposes."

Seventhly, "that a principle of religious discord exists in Ireland, which is totally unfavourable to that kind and peaceful feeling, that is necessary to the security of life and property in a commercial country." To this proposition we assent, and it is perhaps the only one against which we could not raise a demurrer in arrest of judgment. Eighthly, "that the information collected by Wakefield and other tourists, travelling through Ireland in *easy chairs*," (Mr. Wakefield is said to have rode a mule, and to have placed his servant and baggage on another, in his tour through Ireland; consequently he was not the person alluded to; and as the author of this work travelled through Fermanagh in hired carriages, he supposes this arrow was discharged at him) "that this information has turned out, in many instances, to be false and fallacious; that these tourists were *humbugged* by those whom they consulted; and that if such researches be necessary, they should be performed by men who would traverse the mountains and plains of the country on horse-back." On starting this objection we did not ask the gentleman whether any of the savages of which he spoke would be likely to meet us in the mountains; or, as he seemed to have such a bad opinion of the people, whether he thought they could be easily procured to do a *Spanish*

\* We regret to be compelled to add, as a note to this passage, that, besides the slaughter of the police at Carrickshock, by the infernal tithe system (an act of retaliation and vengeance obviously inflamed by the slaughter of the people at Newtonbarry upon the same question;) two murders have been committed in the County of Kilkenny since this article was written; but exactly under what circumstances we cannot say.

*job for good payment?* Ninthly, "if Ireland shall ever become a theatre of trade, it will not be for a long course of years, perhaps a century or so, when the Catholic Relief Bill has had time to soften down our asperities," (he did not however, allude to the two orders of clergy still existing, and who, until equally provided for, and equally attached to the state, will always have a feeling of jealousy towards each other,) "until the tumults of agitation have been calmed by it" (that calm seems yet far off) "and our invidious distinctions melted down," (he should have said by a total purification of the Irish system) "into one peaceful moral mass."

Tenthly, "that Ireland, under all her disadvantages, is getting on very well," (it is pleasant that the gentleman finds it so, as we presume he does in his own personal affairs, in the comparatively peaceful North) "that time only can work her cure," (this cure has been a long time working) "and that in his grandfather's days, nothing was more common than to see pigs running wild over the face of Ireland, although they now form an important article of her trade." Still however, (like the population of which he spoke) the pigs too seem to be a little semi-barbarous, for if you want them to go one way they will run another, and will even push through your legs to force a passage!

Eleventh, "that early marriages, and the consequent rapid increase of our population and poverty, are the curse of this country, and the certain marks of a savage state. That in civilized countries men do not marry until they have made some provision for a family; that the accuracy of the views which Malthus took of the great question of population, derives strong corroborative evidence from the tendency of Ireland to advance in population beyond the productive powers of her soil; and finally, that the theory of Malthus has never been disproved; and in his opinion is incapable of refutation." We are not certain, but we believe the gentleman whose sentiments we are copying is a bachelor. Of this however we are *quite certain*, that the most enthusiastic

defender of Malthus we ever knew, was a *dry* old bachelor in Dublin. But we do not think that the *nature* of these *fruitless* trees, would constitute a good rule for the cultivation of the vineyards of Ireland's bonny land, or indeed of any vineyard in any land, where life was not extinct.

Here is the substance of the objections advanced (by a respectable inhabitant of a most respectable county) against our plans of improvement; and as they embody the sentiments of almost all those Anglo Irish, who wish to substitute a mere culture of the soil for trade and manufactures, (not considering that Poland, and other mere corn countries are the poorest in the world) it may be well to make a few further remarks upon them.\*

And first, be it well observed, that the theory of these Irish Malthusian politicians, pours sovereign contempt upon the ample resources of Great Britain and their own country, and also evidently implies a strong and blasphemous reflection upon the wisdom and goodness of the great Creator!

Secondly. That it contains a tacit acknowledgment of their own inability to find any better remedy for the misfortunes of Ireland than that of celibacy, an institute contrary to nature and to the design of Providence.

Thirdly. That a rapidly increasing population, which forms the strength and glory of well regulated states, is, in their opinion, as Ireland is now circumstanced, an evil intolerable to be borne!

Fourthly. That this implies a belief that the government under which the evil exists, is either destitute of the means of removing it, or so weak and vicious as to be unequal to the task of *good government*!

Upon one or other of these horns of a quadruple dilemma we presume to place them, and we defy them to remove themselves (as Paddy, who hates Malthus, would say, when speaking of a job well done) "*clane and dacent*."

Being thus driven (not by the evil of a surplus population,

\* Poland was not politically extinct when this article was written. Its soil and agricultural circumstances however, remain the same.



God forbid, but by English jealousy and palpable defects of government) into the entertainment of opinions hostile to humanity, sound policy, and common sense; they employ their faculties in a ridiculous consideration of the means by which the population of their country may be reduced and weakened; instead of uniting those abused faculties, and the facilities which they are able to command, in a vigorous and determined effort to rescue their people from the mental slavery and physical degradation, into which they are sunk; not at all by a deficiency in the resources of their soil and climate, but by a woeful deficiency in the wisdom and industry of their past governments.

These gentlemen, like the majority of those in all nations, who have been born to easy fortunes, and therefore raised above the necessity of deep thinking, very naturally derive from their habits of ease and luxury, a keen aversion to personal inconvenience. Rocked in the cradle of pride and pleasure; unacquainted with the wants and sufferings of others, and knowing nothing of that sympathy which is learned in the school of experience, and in that alone; they very naturally grow impatient and dissatisfied, when they find a people multiplying around them like rabbits in a warren, who having neither land, nor trade, nor profitable employment of any sort, are not only encroaching (like an army of locusts) upon every green thing, but trenching very frequently and sensibly upon the properties of their superiors, disturbing their repose, diminishing their security, planting thorns of solitude in their bosoms; and, in reference to those who have made themselves remarkable for driving the locusts out of the corn, some apprehensions occasionally for the safety of their lives. This, to be sure, is not a pleasant state of things for men fond of ease and pleasure, and wishing to expatiate with freedom and safety in the open air. It is not therefore surprising that the first thought which occurs to these *deep thinkers*, is that of the evil of an overgrown population; and the second (to which the first naturally leads) the shortest and surest methods by which they may get rid

of this rapidly increasing *nuisance*! Hence the grinding policy adopted by Pharaoh, (was he a Malthusian also?) to diminish the number of the Israelites; hence the British subletting act to consolidate farms and send the serfs adrift; and hence the admiration of the doctrine of Malthus expressed by these politicians; a doctrine, which upon a fair principle, should have the whole earth and sea for an experiment, and for a sufficiently long period of time to provide data for a sure conclusion, and is therefore incapable of proof. But in all this, these Irish Malthusians do not see that they are upon the wrong scent, that they are embarking in a war, like Pharaoh, with a power that is too strong for them; that in spite of all they can do, the people will grow and multiply in the land of Egypt; and that therefore the better mode would be, to raise these serfs in the scale of character and comfort, and by giving them education, and a something worth preserving, make it their interest to value and obey the laws. Many of these Malthusians would be ready to cut your throat if you doubted their honour or humanity; they will, however, permit you to express a suspicion that their policy is wrong; that it contradicts the first principles of nature, and is therefore *impracticable*; and that its justice and its mercy being at least questionable, it should not therefore be acted upon in any system of legislation intended for the government of men. To all this, however, some sweeping Malthusians would give you a laconic answer. If they spoke their minds freely, they would refer you to the days of Cromwell, when the question was soon settled; but events have proved that the question was not *settled* even then. We know as well as they, the summary policy by which Cromwell imagined he had transferred this question to "Hell or Connaught." The warmest advocates of a sweeping system must own, that it was no want of energy on the part of this saint and soldier, that left the question of a redundant popish population unsettled to this day. Cromwell imagined that he had established the Protestantism of three Irish provinces, by transferring popery

to Connaught; with the Atlantic ocean for its boundary, on one side, and the river Shannon (with the sword of Cromwell, more dreadful than any river,) for its boundary on the other; still however neither the fear of Cromwell's sword, or of the dreadful penalties of his law, nor of the long line of penal laws that were enacted by succeeding governments, have torn up those roots of popery from the Irish soil, that were so deeply planted there by the Bull of Adrian, and the sword of Harry. Heaven must have intended this root as a corrective to Protestant corruptions (in like manner as the nations subdued by the Jewish sword were permitted to remain, as its instruments in the punishment of the offences of the priests and princes of the Jewish people,) for how otherwise could popery exist in Ireland under the operation of the fires which assailed it; under the influence of the clouds which enveloped it; and in such a political climate, as that of Ireland, plunged in the fiery region of one unmitigated blaze of penal law? How otherwise could 'the people still *grow* and *multiply* in the land of Egypt? They have done so, however, in despite of all this artillery of murder; and it is now high time to see that it is not by a *persecuting policy*, directed against the growth of men, that the circumstances of a nation will be amended; but by turning the very artillery that has been used in this mistaken and destructive warfare, against every plan of civil and ecclesiastical law that is hostile to those rights, and that just liberty, which every citizen should enjoy, in the discharge of those duties which he justly owes to a free and an equal government. This is the policy which may be collected from the doctrines of the New Testament, in which many of these Malthusians profess to believe. But although they have the Bible in their hands, and read it in their houses, they overlook the first chapter of the book of Exodus, a chapter pregnant with instruction to men of this political creed; and which, if they seriously considered, would be sufficient to make them tremble, even on the verge of —

Of the parallel which this chapter forces upon the think-



ing mind, we shall only say, that, in the limited course of our reading, we do not recollect to have met with any thing so strikingly analogous as that which we find in the history of the Irish and Jewish serfs, under the British and Egyptian governments; and from all which we have seen of the conduct extended to the Irish peasant, even by the lord of his own religion, we think the ignorance and abject slavery in which the latter keeps him (considering the just claims of the peasant to his friendship and protection) proves him to be a LIBERAL only in *name*, but a tyrant in *principle*; since with all his boasted love of country, and all his clamouring for an abolition of Irish abuses, the men of *his faith* have done but little individually, and nothing collectively, for raising the wages of the Irish labourer to an improving standard; although they have held numerous meetings within the last forty years, to raise themselves in the scale of privilege and power.

When we wrote "Ireland exhibited to England," some ten or twelve years since, we did not forget to plead the cause of an ignorant and enslaved peasantry, whose wrongs and vices have contributed so largely to the disorganised state of society in Ireland. We told the rulers of the British empire, and the Irish rulers of the poor, what we now repeat, that this country will never be effectually civilized, and incorporated with England and English institutions, until justice shall be done to the Irish peasantry by LAW; until these latter feel that their cause is heard, and their rights provided for, by the ear and the arm of a merciful government; until this government legislate for them in defiance of their oppressive rulers; and under this conviction, and from a persuasion that their regeneration was not far off, we remarked in substance, "that as Divine Providence had commenced the work of political justice, by breaking down despotic power at its fountain-head; so neither did it end its work with a correction of the pride of Princes, (by giving a portion of their power to the barons,) but it also made the chivalrous passion of these barons for a vain crusade, the

instrument of enfranchising certain cities. Political justice was thus promoted step by step; until at length it conferred upon Ireland the rude outlines of the British constitution, and sent a torch kindled at the fountain of law and science, to illuminate the land; not for the benefit of a few only, but for that of the many, whom it has not yet reached. It was not for the benefit of *the few only* that Providence gave a check to arbitrary power in the church and state, and established the rude outlines of a liberal constitution upon the ruins of the feudal system. It was not for this purpose that it introduced *a new race* of nobility, gentry, and clergy, judges, magistrates, and merchants. These have been the gradual offspring of the march of Providence; and if the blessings of liberty, property, and intellectual improvement, have descended to the men of trade, and to the middle link in the landed interest, they will not stop here; they will stoop even to the peasant's hut. The walls of partition, by which the bodies and the minds of men have been kept in a state of abject vassalage, will be broken down; and we entertain not a doubt but this gracious Providence, which has descended with its blessings from the throne to the middle link of the landed interest, (a link, like those above it, which has frequently fallen with oppressive weight upon the poor,) we have no doubt, we say, but this Divine and gracious Providence, is now standing at the threshold of the peasant's door, and will, "ere long, open that door, and proclaim glad tidings to its oppressed inhabitants."

These were our views when we wrote that work, nearly twelve years since; and has the progress of Ireland, or the progress of nations, from that period to this, given us any reason to alter them? By no means. Justice may be overthrown for a short season here and there, but the elements of regeneration are afloat, and they will finally purify the system. Providence has established those elements, and it will make them work for the regeneration of Christian states, in its own time, and by its own methods. Catholic emancipation has been carried—the English parliament

has been reformed. The dissenters have been liberated from an arbitrary imposition. The people have risen against the antichristian yoke of tithes. Heaven (in the persons of the Quakers) sent peaceful messengers to the English government upon this subject, but she would not hear them. The same awful authority has now sent to her a stronger voice; and if that should be rejected, it will raise up messengers to speak to her in still stronger language, for the voice of truth and justice will finally prevail. A reform of abuses is now demanded by the whole empire; and England has her choice, either to march forward with Providence in the course of justice, in defiance of her enemies ("a man's enemies are those of his own house,") or to sink still deeper into financial embarrassment, popular discontent, interruptions of the public peace, and heavings of the very foundations of the temple of British independence! Yes, the Providence of which we speak, is rapidly descending to the door of the Irish peasant's hut; the people are multiplying too rapidly in the land of Egypt to be longer neglected. It will not do to throw half a nation of mendicants a burthen upon human industry. It will not do to put labourers off with four-pence or five-pence per day, for twelve hours work. Something more must be done for the poor of Ireland, than to teach them to read and *perish patiently* with hunger and inanition! It is vain to think of extending the lights of education to a people who cannot taste the sweets of religion, literature, and moral order, in that state of humble competency, cleanliness, and comfort, which is absolutely indispensable to the pure enjoyment of these blessings. We took the liberty of hinting our opinion of this subject to the nobleman who is now at the head of the Irish government, and suggested that into any POOR LAW intended for the relief of Ireland, a clause should be introduced, (for the *protection* of that law from the *pressure* of labourers reduced to weakness and disease by the starving prices for labour in divers districts,) empowering every Irish labourer to recover from his employer, one shilling per day



for the work of every day between the first of March and the first of November, and eight-pence or ten-pence, for every day in the remaining four months of the year; together with a section in the same act, exempting every such labourer from the payment of tithe of potatoes (that is supposing tithes to be in force at the passing of the act,) and rendering it illegal (where from eight to twelve guineas had been formerly imposed) to charge him more than at the rate of £6 per acre for any con acre of potatoe ground that he may choose to rent. These are provisions that we have long seen to be necessary to justice, and to the peace of Ireland. In the work just noticed, we entered largely into the *causes* of Irish discontent and insurrection; and the frequent interruptions to the peace of the south of Ireland, by murders and burnings of property, since that time; and the still *uncertain* state of life and property, in divers parts of that province (under the existing system) prove that we were right.

It is vain to think of governing Ireland any longer without legislating for the poor. When we mentioned this to Lord Anglesey, he candidly acknowledged the cruelty and injustice with which the poor are treated by many of their masters in certain districts; but considered that it would be *unconstitutional* (this was his excellency's phrase) to make laws for the price of land or the price of labour. Now how does this sentiment correspond with the language of British law, which, as to the prices of corn, maintains a *coercive* level, and which protects the subject from the greedy rapacity of the attorney by a tax bill? So much then for the constitutionality of the thing. But the fact is this; it is quite *constitutional* to protect the landed interest, and every other interest of consideration in the state, by *special* laws; but it is not constitutional to protect the labourer against the rapacity of his master, or his landlord! If it be wrong to trench upon the freedom of the subject in one case, it is wrong also in another; but if it be right to do so for the public good, and when the abuses of any system of society

evidently demand it, it is then right to legislate in the labourer's defence; for by no order of men has constitutional power been more shamefully abused, than by the labourer's civil and ecclesiastical governors in the disturbed provinces; nor have any constitutional abuses in Ireland proved more detrimental to the march of civilization in that country, and to the peace and security of the community at large, than those against which we are now pleading, as having drawn the labourer or small tenant into a contempt of life and law, from his total inability to procure an honourable deliverance from that state of *brutal degradation*, to which A WICKED CONTEMPT OF THE RIGHTS OF HUMANITY HAVE ABANDONED HIM. If it be wrong to have recourse to coercive laws, in order to secure the rights of nature to the cultivator of the soil (in the shape of compensation for his labour, in the days of his health, and of a just and gratuitous support when he is worn down by toil and years), why do government fix the soldier's pay, and determine his pension by rules of equity? Why do they coerce the lords of the English soil in favour of the English poor? or is Ireland the only country under the British crown that is to be abandoned to a state of anarchy; and the Irish poor the only *caste* that are to be treated as aliens and outlaws from the British commonwealth, and this too under the mockery of a union of the two countries?

The *unconstitutional* phrase of my Lord Anglesey, was not therefore the result of reflection; it was a first thought—for if the voice of law pronounces that it is a duty of the state to determine the price of corn, and the weight of bread, and the attorney's fee, and to coerce the English landed interest in favour of the English poor; *it is not unconstitutional* to compel the selfish, the avaricious, and the cruel, to do justice to the Irish labourer, in the days of his health and vigour, and to contribute of their abundance to his support, when he is no longer able to make the earth smile with the joy of harvest.

So far the claims of the Irish labourer and his *caste* (with

the exception of the steel and the dungeon that were always ready for them when they rebelled against oppression) have been treated with legislative neglect, by every parliament, British and Irish, that has yet been held under the crown of England. Of this neglect, the fruits have been obvious enough. Even the fertile fields of Downshire (the garden of the North, and the theatre of a once flourishing manufacture) have not been free from tumultuary assemblies of labouring men clamouring for justice. Why should not these people be made to know, that in parliament they would find sure redress for every real grievance? Why should they not be thus taught to respect the laws, and to repose confidence in the wisdom and virtue of their government? Alas! they have not been thus taught by a corrupt and —— parliament, for in too large and eminent a sense it was composed of their oppressors; and now that *their own leaders* have got into that house, what have they done for the poor of Ireland? Is not O'Connell, whom the poor fools worship, the avowed enemy of a law that would wrest from the splendid temples of wealth and oppression, those needless fragments of their grandeur, that would form a house of mercy to shelter the aged poor from the indignant frown and inclement blast, that, during centuries of Irish history, have assailed the shattered ruins of their existence at every corner!

The murders and massacres committed by men thus *educated*, and actually forced to become midnight legislators in their own defence; proclaim the state of the poor of Ireland in characters of blood! The Imperium in Imperio of Captain Rock, had its origin in the pride with which power looks down upon the poor and their oppressions; and although, in the prevalence of long-suffering mercy, the cup of vengeful retribution has not yet been filled to the brim, yet the numerous awful and bloody reactions that have been produced by this system, should instruct England in the possibility of a still stronger warning; and in justice to herself, she should advance more firmly and rapidly to



the legislative relief of the poor of Ireland against their civil and ecclesiastical oppressors.

Having now finished our appeal to England, let us resume our address to the Malthusians of our own country.

If these gentlemen, instead of devoting their thoughts to idle and impracticable schemes for obstructing the progress of population, would consider how the resources which the government and country possess, could be rendered available to the employment of the poor of Ireland, in the improvement of their country and that of the British colonies; this indeed would be a rational mode of advancing the interests of their country, and of fulfilling that law of charity, in which consists the moral perfection of the gospel, and from whence the best lessons of civil government may be drawn. Should they ask us, where those modes of employment, and outlets for our surplus population and labour may be found? without intending to give them personal offence, we would point the finger of scorn at four million acres of land lying waste in Ireland, of which one half at least are capable of cultivation by home colonies. We would direct the same finger towards the various defects in our ports, harbours, and inland navigation, by which the progress of commerce is obstructed; we would point it downwards towards our neglected mines, and upwards towards our unplanted mountains; we would direct their attention to the example of a few merchants in Belfast, who, in a time of great commercial depression, when the working weavers were thrown out of employment, chartered a vessel at their own expense, and sent seventy or eighty of these unfortunate artisans to the American states, from whence their letters of gratitude for the prosperity they enjoyed, afforded ample compensation for this well timed service, to their generous benefactors; whose principles did not terminate in fine feelings and barren speculations; in an arbitrary interference with the laws of nature, or in idle and immoral schemes for arresting the natural and healthful progress of population, but in a solid work of practical relief. And finally pointing our finger

horizontally towards the setting sun, we would say, to what purpose have we procured colonies beyond the seas by our wealth and blood, if they provide no refuge for our surplus labourers, where these labourers are so much wanted : and we would ask our governors and gentlemen of fortune, is it the will of heaven, with all these means of redemption in your hand, that our poor should perish in the midst of plenty, or be driven by a wicked contempt of the rights of nature, to rescue a remnant of those rights from their oppressors, by a savage violation of laws, that have been enacted to protect property from the encroachments of a people, perishing upon the soil where they were born, and among forests of corn which their own hands have reared !

Here then is a reply, and a full reply, to all those Malthusian politicians, who build their hopes of Irish prosperity upon the vain foundations of a country without men, or with so many men only, as may be necessary to realize the pleasures of that golden age, when Abraham and Lot divided the land between them, and each was the Prince of a large tract of country, with few men and great herds of cattle !

As to the doctrine of Parson Malthus, we have only to say, that Ireland cannot be dragged into its service, until the population of the earth has found its just level, (by what Providence evidently intends,) an open and easy channel of communication between all nations. Were the population of the earth thus fairly distributed, the falsehood of the Malthusian philosophy would be proved, without calling in the aid of an *impure* and *arbitrary* interference with the natural and healthful progress of population. The earth, by good cultivation, is equal to the sustenance of all the men that can be produced upon it. The wants of the latter cannot possibly exceed the productive powers of the former, under the guidance of that Providence that presides over it, and that (by a special foresight of the exigency to be met) multiplied food in Ireland *ten fold*, by the discovery of a single root ! although, in all probability, the instrument of this discovery (we believe Sir Walter Raleigh) did not see the

design for which he was thus made the locum-tenens of the great and universal provider.

This fact, standing before us, as it does, in broad and legible characters upon the face of Egypt; can any one doubt the adequacy of the same Providence to the discovery of another root, by which the present produce of the soil of Ireland might be multiplied ten fold more, if that were needful. This necessity, however, does not exist; for even as Ireland now stands (to say nothing of the millions of acres lying waste) it is thought by good judges, that her soil under stock and cultivation, could be made to produce food for thirty millions of men, although her population is, at most, but eight.

And if this be a fact in the statistical history of our country, will any man presume to say, that her miseries arise from the pressure of a surplus population, and not from those unjust monopolies, by which the wealth of a nation is collected into large masses in the hands of a few, while the many who produce that wealth by their labours are left to perish; although it is obvious to common sense, and to all just notions of Christian policy, that a trade in provisions should be strictly confined to the *surplus* produce of the soil, and that no food should be permitted to be stored in granaries or exported to foreign countries, until the wants of the people, who had produced that food by their labours, (and who have evidently a strict claim in nature to the first fruits) had been previously well supplied.

### THE TITHE QUESTION.

A hint to the British Government, and to the Landed Interest of Ireland, on the Tithe Question.

If government hope to get rid of this question, by any modification of the Tithe Tax, that will not wholly and effectually deliver the tenantry of Ireland from that burthen, for which they receive no equivalent, (in the maintenance of their poor, or in the instruction of their people,) then government mistake the matter. If the burthen shall be imposed



upon the landlords, with the power to these latter to enforce repayment from their tenants; or if government shall charge themselves with the collection of the tax through their county treasurers; in either of these cases the source of civil discord will remain, and that warfare of the people against the parsons, which of course would terminate with the extinction of the tax, will be transferred to the landlord, or to the agents of the government, who are sent to collect it in connection with other imposts; and these imposts, which no man now disputes, will also be rendered unpopular; and after the country, by the imposition of this tax in a new form, has been thrown into new fermentation—after law and order have been interrupted and set at defiance by new insurrections—after people have been forced into a state of warfare with their landlords, or with the government itself; after they have been *taught* to examine into the foundation of titles to property, and into the equity of institutions that (but for the tithe tax) would never have been questioned—after blood has been shed, and the constitution suspended, and thousands of lives have been lost (supposing the evil to extend no farther)—after the people have been long trained in habits of hatred and disaffection to the government and laws; what then will be the upshot of all this evil? It will be simply this, that the tithe tax must in the end be given up; and why? First, because when a tax is universally odious and unpopular, it is nearly impossible to collect it. Secondly, because when it is unjust and arbitrary in its principle, a large proportion of the talent, and the entire virtue of the country, are united with the people against it; and, in a free country, these powers combined and acting steadily together, must finally subdue it. Thirdly, because when the tax is intended for the support of a ministry, from whom the people receive no equivalent, and who offer them the Bible with one hand, while they present a loaded musket with the other, the spirit of resistance to this tax, becomes inflamed to madness; and any danger will be incurred, and every difficulty will be surmounted to resist it. And lastly,

because the enforcement of such a tax generates *other questions of right*, as has been already noticed, increases agitation, inflames the wound, widens the breach, provokes a settled feeling of hostility to the authors and supporters of such a law; and no government wishing to discharge its duty to *itself*, will continue to risque the consequences of such a state of society for the maintenance of a tax injurious to the state, prejudicial to religion, unjust in its principle, and both hateful and oppressive to the majority of the people. It will therefore be given up, after much mischief has been done, because in such circumstances it could not be perseveringly forced upon a whole nation determined to resist it.

Were the measure of our power and influence equivalent to the measure of our good-will, we would nerve the arm of government by another course. We would abolish this and every other obviously unjust and oppressive impost. We would purify our law system from all abuses. (The legislator may smile at this; but he should recollect that this is his proper *business*, and if he does not execute it, he is a *nuisance*.) We would afford immediate redress to every case of real grievance. We would guard the labourer's rights, and provide for the destitute poor by special laws; and having thus done our duty by the people, we would have all that was good and virtuous in the country to support our laws and institutions; and should just and moderate taxes for the maintenance of the state and civil order, or the titles to property under the act of settlement, or legal contracts of any kind; or the public peace, the security of life and property, or the civil and religious privileges of the subject, be menaced or invaded by an ignorant and deluded populace, the tools of faction, we would then adopt a *summary* and *effectual* mode of restoring the deluded to their senses; but previously to our entering on this course of law, we would appoint confidential agents to meet the people in the disturbed districts, to hear from their own mouths the ground of their complaints; and if these were well founded,

if they arose from an *oppressive* exercise of constitutional right, by landlords or other individuals, we would withhold the insurrection act from the disturbed districts until justice had been done; for in a war with poverty and ignorance, we would have equity, honour, and humanity, for our allies, and not a host of oppressors and oppressive impositions.

## TITHES RESUMED.

To Sir Hussey Vivian, &c. &c. on the Tithe Question.

(First published in the Pilot Newspaper of — Dublin; then in the Morning Register, and afterwards in the Tradesman's Journal.)

SIR,—Your cool and clever reply to the commentary of the Freeman newspaper, upon certain statements of yours which appeared in print, relative to the intimately connected subjects of Tithes and murders in Ireland, clearly prove you to be a man of tact, and no stranger to the arts of sophistry and logic.

In the few remarks which I now presume to address to you, I shall confine myself exclusively to the former question, as I have no taste for murders in a free state, and shall reserve for a future and more favourable medium of communication with the public, an examination of the causes by which these murders have been produced.

The pith and marrow of the argument you have advanced to prove that tithes are perfectly harmless to the tenant, may be summed up in one short sentence, thus— If two estates of equal soil and measurement are let out in farms—one at £10,000 per annum, tithe free; and the other at £9,000 subject to the tithe-tax, is not this tax perfectly harmless to the tenant, since the landlord of the tithe-free property pockets the thousand a-year, which, on a change of circumstances, would drop into the pocket of the parson; (and you might have strengthened your argument by adding) who lives and spends his income with the people who produce it, while the landlord is too frequently an absentee and an oppressor.

Having thus triumphantly proved that the tithe-tax is as



perfectly *harmless* in the pocket of the parson as in that of the landlord, you then *wisely* conclude, that the opposition which has been long given to that tax in Ireland, has its principal or only source in the hatred of a factious people to the laws and institutions of their Saxon conquerors; entirely forgetting, *par accident*, that the Saxon Quakers have been protesting against this tax in all their yearly Epistles and Public Records for nearly two hundred years; and that the gospel has interdicted a *forced* maintenance for its ministers, as an *insult* to the providence and power of its Author. Having totally forgotten this part of your political creed as a professed Christian, and thrown overboard the injustice and impolicy of forcing upon an impoverished people, the maintenance of a ministry from which they receive no spiritual benefit; it is not surprising that you should stumble, as a *dernier resource*, upon the wise conclusion, that the spirit of resistance to tithes in Ireland, has derived its existence from the long-cherished hatred of a factious and discontented people to their Saxon conquerors !

In noticing the glittering link which you have thus ingeniously struck out from a long chain of arguments connected with this question, and which you have shrewdly separated from all those links of history, sound policy, equitable law, and Christian doctrine, that, by the force of contrast, would have stripped your cunningly selected link of its deceitful gilding, and exhibited the baseness of its metal to the world; I shall not occupy your time with the corrupt origin of tithes in the Christian church, nor with the well-known perversion of church property from its original uses, nor with the enormous value of Irish church lands (so amply equivalent to the maintenance of a gorgeous church, without the oppressions of the tithe-tax) nor with the wicked and unchristian policy of placing our CHURCH and COUNTRY in opposition to each other by this iniquitous impost; but shall come at once to your cardinal argument, namely, that the payment of tithes to the clergy of our church is an imposition quite *harmless* to the tenantry of Ireland, since if

the clergy do not receive them (as in the case of lands tithe-free) the landlord will enforce them in the shape of rent, and consequently, if a second tenth of the produce of our soil were set apart for the support of the Catholic clergy, and a third tenth for that of the Protestant Dissenting Churches, they too would prove harmless to the people, since in the case of lands tithe-free, the landlord would levy the amount of these two tenths also in the shape of rent, and so on *ad infinitum*, for any number of tenths that you may choose to appoint for the maintenance of our numerous priesthoods. This is the point to which your argument conducts us; and if it has any force, the three tenths just noticed would prove as *harmless* as the one tenth now imposed by law; for by no rule of logic can you produce one harmful composition from three harmless ingredients, or one unit from three ciphers; and hence you have *triumphantly* proved that it is a matter of the utmost indifference to the people of Ireland, whether one tenth, two tenths, or three tenths of their property shall be wrested from them for the support of a system of METAPHYSICS of which they know nothing, and which, (supposing your report of the murders committed in Ireland within the neighbourhoods of our garrisons to be correct, and which I am sure it is) instead of producing peace on earth, and good-will to man, appears to have been the unhappy occasion of grievous legal extortion, very general discontent, extensive burnings of property, and an incalculable number of cruel and cold-blooded murders!

Wishing you joy, Sir Hussey, of the *triumph* of your argument, I have the honour to be, with sentiments of admiration for the tact and talent with which you flourished your gilded link before the simple people of Ireland,

Your very humble and admiring Servant,

A. ATKINSON,

An Irish Patriot, although a Protestant and Saxon.

## GRAND JURY SYSTEM.

We copy the following excellent *exposé* of the Irish grand jury system from a London journal. The writer of the article was evidently an Irishman, well acquainted with the grand jury system of his country; and he has drawn a picture of the job so perfectly to the life, that we shall make no apology for presenting our readers with the full length portrait of this accurate and honest artist.

“The recent disturbances in Ireland,” says the writer in this paper (the Atlas, we believe, for we cut out the article some time since, and the paper is not now before us) “evidently springing from the wants of the people, have drawn renewed attention to the affairs of that unfortunate country. Healing measures are useless. There must be a radical change in the whole domestic policy of Ireland. The poor laws, useful as they would prove, could not reach the complicated evils that beset the legislator who dedicates his enquiries to Irish misery. Amongst those evils there is none that calls more loudly for reformation than the grand jury system. It is contrived, with exquisitely cunning skill, to administer to the interest of the broken down gentry, and to grind the poor. An Englishman would find considerable difficulty before he could comprehend the details by which these ends are compassed. The presentments are usually enormous: and are almost invariably for purposes, the benefits of which devolve upon the jurors themselves or their immediate friends. But it must not be supposed that the labourers employed in the works that are thus got up on the local estates, derive a corresponding advantage from the employment so created. They certainly get the roads and drains to make, but they are charged *double price* for their land, and their con acre. The bargain of the poor tenant generally includes a pledge, that he shall get work under a presentment, to enable him to discharge his *exorbitant rents*. The object of the grand juror is to improve his own property, if he have any, or to realize one, if he have it not, at the



expense of the wretched people under him. An inspection of the Quere books for the last five years, would satisfactorily shew to what an extent of undisguised profligacy the jobbing in presentments has been carried. The under sheriff, too, has his own presentments. The grand jurors dare not refuse him, for he usually carries in his pocket executions against the majority of them, which he uses as a convenient instrument to sway their fears. The patronage of the grand jury, is equally lavished to the detriment of the public service. Since the Irish revenue establishments have ceased to afford a *refugium* for the dependants of the petty great, the offices in the appointment of the grand juries are made to supply the deficiency. Patronage is an essential ensign of small authority in Ireland. The county treasurers, high constables, and the numerous persons in employment about the jails and hospitals, are all either relations, servants, fosterers, or connections of the grand jurors, or those whose behests they are bound to obey. Those individuals, having by virtue of their offices, the right of levying fines,\* and being sheltered in their abuses by the favour of the grand jury, inflict with impunity upon the lower classes, the full measure of oppression which their privileges enable them to exact. Against these acts of cruelty there is no appeal. The grand jury will see no faults in their cherished creatures. The machinery of these abuses is very complex; it extends even to members of parliament, who will rarely make any attempt to purify the system, knowing that they may suffer for their patriotism at the next election. Hence it is invariably found, that previously to a general election, the presentments increase, for that is the time when the representatives of the people are obliged to betray their constituents for the sake of preserving their seat. As the crisis is now rapidly approaching when the grand juries may be expected to trade more largely than usual on the apprehensions of the

\* This right, however, must be very limited, although no doubt very grievous and oppressive to the wretched victims of petty despotism and cupidity.—ED. NOTE.

members, we recommend the administration to cause an inspection of the Quere books in the different counties. There is hardly a single measure of inquiry which would render the government more popular with the people of Ireland. A curious chapter of Irish discontents may be opened, by carrying our hint into effect; and a simple remedy may be sought out that will ensure the gratitude of the country, by destroying a prolific source of agitation and injustice."

#### EVILS IN THE POLICY BY WHICH SOME IRISH ESTATES ARE GOVERNED.

First, short leases (say twenty one years or less) upon which no prudent tenant will expend his capital in permanent improvements; and consequently the progress of improvement in Ireland is retarded by those leases. Secondly, the want of moral agents (men totally unconnected with the collection and enforcement of rents, and who, in reference to the landlord, should rather labour to soften, than inflame his demands) for the purpose of visiting the tenants, and making faithful reports to the Lord of the soil, of all peculiar cases of affliction, of all needful improvements in farms and homesteads, of all habits of life tending to promote poverty and insolvency, such as habitual drunkenness, neglect of business, litigation, frauds and trespass, leading to breaches of the peace, party quarrels, leading to battery and bloodshed; robbery, night walking, and illegal associations, &c., all of which, it is as much the duty of the landlord to discover, resist, and exterminate, as it is his interest to encourage sober and industrious tenants, by moderate rents, good leases, and proper premiums for improvement.

Here the field of moral agency lies plain before the view of the landed interest—it is a moral and not a religious field—and as it now presents to the eye of the philosopher, a scene of briars and thorns, blended with barrenness and blood, no time should be lost in filling up the blank which exists, with men of humanity, well informed in the peculiarities of Ire-

land, totally unconnected with the enforcement of rents, and incapable of intermeddling with the religious rights and liberties of the people.

We know of no landlord who has made this attempt save the Earl of Farnham; and although strong objections have been made to the means which he has adopted, for proselyting his poor Roman Catholic neighbours to the Protestant faith, (a question into which we shall not now enter) yet the comparatively happy circumstances of his Lordship's tenantry, and the obvious order and comfort which prevail on his estate in Cavan, clearly prove the utility of a moral agency under a wise and paternal superintendence; and without stopping to analyse the springs of proselyting zeal, (and which in Ireland we believe have operated with an equally selfish and intolerant activity in both churches; the degrees of personal *cruelty* exercised on these occasions being however very different, if report is to be credited,) we maintain the utility, yea the absolute necessity, of a moral agency on the estates of Ireland, for the purpose of correcting the destructive progress of those evils, to which a mere monied agency (occupied exclusively with what is called the main chance) is by no means adapted.

The poverty of some Irish tenants contributes largely to the wealth of an important personage, called the bailiff of the estate, whose province it is to drive and distrain for rent. To get a little time for payment, small fees must be given; and thus, as in most bankrupt cases, the means taken to relieve from present distress increase the malady, until final ruin blow up the whole establishment of the wretched tenant; a tragedy that might be prevented by a judicious and timely exercise of moral power.

#### GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE SOIL OF ULSTER,

Addressed to the rising generation of the Landed Interest in that Province.

The north of Ireland is more eminently distinguished than any of the provinces of that country, by a bold and striking variety of hill and dale in the surface of the soil; and to this



characteristic distinction, several great mountain tracts (the probable depositaries of great and extensive mineral wealth) are superadded.

In the other provinces many valuable minerals have been discovered; and there are also some great mountain tracts, (such as those of Cork, Tipperary, and Wicklow,) but still the North of Ireland, in reference to its soil, surface, and resources, and still more eminently to the moral and industrious habits of the people, is the province of Ireland best adapted for commercial enterprise: and should the English nation be aroused to a due conviction of the value of this country as a theatre of trade; in all probability more money will be embarked in Ulster, by English companies, than in any other province of the island; to which the security of life and property, so perfectly enjoyed here, (and which gives this province a decided advantage over the other three) will be no mean inducement.

As a preparation of the public mind for this happy result of useful inquiry in England, we beg to submit the following REFLECTIONS to the Lords of the Ulster soil; or perhaps with a better prospect of success, to the rising generation of their sons; as it is not easy to turn the attention of old men from their established modes of thinking and acting, to any new speculation, however profitable.

#### REFLECTIONS.

It is impossible to achieve any measure of public good without proportionate exertion. Without union, patience, and perseverance, a nation can neither hold what she has got, recover what she has lost, or make any sensible progress in the march of trade and science; and it ought not to be necessary to remind gentlemen of rank and property, that in proportion as those national virtues rise or fall, their family interests float or perish. Look at Scotland, a poor country, and see the advance which she has made in trade and science within the last century, by a course of steady and persevering industry. See also the political march of the Irish

Catholics, moving in a body, and joining hand to hand until they reached the goal to which their sense of justice had directed them. All history proves that a nation will float or perish, in proportion to its industry and union, or to its indolence and discord. See the motto that we have selected for the title page of this book ; it proves that the same sentiment was entertained in the days of Sallust ; and if it were necessary to select from history a proof of the advantages resulting to a nation from union and firmness, we would find it in the success of a handful of united Greeks, against the invasion of their country by the mighty arm of Persia ; and in the union of the Irish volunteers in a defensive association, (composed of all sects and parties, save the Society of Friends,) when Ireland was menaced with a French invasion, and government were unable to supply that country with a competent military force. But in reference to a peaceful and constitutional struggle for the improvement of our country, we have recourse to military examples, only as a stimulus to industry, and as a proof of the advantage resulting from a firm union of the people in the pursuit of a common good ; for in our excellent constitution there are remedies of moral force, which, unless on the event of an invasion, render military struggles needless ; but these remedies are vain if they are not called into vigorous exercise by a united and energetic people ; and hence we address ourselves to the rising generation of the landed interest of Ulster, having little confidence in absentee lords, or superannuated men of pleasure. Had the liberty which is now enjoyed by France, and which forms the stable base of her future transcendant greatness, depended upon the exertions of such men as these, that country would now be crouching in chains at the foot of a dethroned tyrant. Scotland, in similar circumstances, would have enjoyed the benefits arising from episcopacy and the supremacy of the Pope ! America, her submission to the old governments of Europe ; Greece, the tender mercy of the Sultan's power ; Protestants, no liberty of conscience ; and if Ireland must remain under this kind of weak and

superannuated influence, it is certain the income of her absentee lords will never be restored to her; her minerals and fossils (the gift of the God of nature to the inhabitants of the country) will be useless; her forfeited trade will be forfeited for ever; her rivers, in their bold and rapid flight, may whistle their music to the winds; those winds will offer to swell the sail of the merchantman in vain; in vain her harbours will offer safe shelter and good anchorage to shipping. And lastly, the sons of literature and science, may spend their lives, and exhaust their faculties to no purpose, in calling the attention of the landed interest to the resources of their country, and the means by which those resources may be rendered tributary to the wealth of the state, the employment of the people, and an improvement in the circumstances of the landlord, the tenant, the merchant, and the artisan.

But as history instructs us that great public blessings must be acquired by great public exertions (always preferring those which are peaceful to those which interrupt the harmony of a country) and as noble achievements are never attempted by men who despair, or who hate labour, or who laugh at the pursuit of a distant good; we shall apply ourselves, in the arguments which we now address to the landed interest of Ulster, not to the absentee lord, who has abandoned the vessel of his country to the winds and to the waves; not to the aged and despairing man of pleasure, who hates exertion, but to the young and vigorous intellect of the rising generation, to which all that is possible to be achieved is an object of hope; and if it shall be our good fortune to enlist this young and vigorous intellect in the noble cause which we espouse, and unite it in a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether, in the salvation of our sinking trade, it is not impossible but such a spirit of inquiry may be excited, in reference to the facilities which this province possesses for the employment of a great and extensive capital, as may lead to the formation of county meetings of the landed interest, for the purpose of ascertaining in the first instance,



by an exact geological survey of the mountain districts, the nature of their various treasures; and these once ascertained, to the adoption of resolutions of liberal encouragement to such portions of the English monied interest, as may feel disposed to embark capital upon the soil of Ulster, where property is perfectly secure. These indispensable preparatives completed (and if the rising generation of the landed interest, who have the deepest stake in the country, do not complete them, no other interest will) a popular periodical devoted to Ireland, and established by Irish gentlemen in London, as a medium of communication between the monied interest of England, and the landed interest of Ireland, would prove useful.—Through such a medium, all the prejudices and difficulties which rest upon the question of embarking capital in Ireland, might be materially removed, and this long promised result of the act of Union be at length realized.

Here is the obvious course which the lords of the Ulster soil should pursue for the advancement of their own interests. Since the failure of the Irish linen trade by the cotton and capital of England, this country has been rapidly sinking into mendicity; and it will continue to sink still deeper, if the great leading interests do not make a vigorous exertion to establish colonies upon our waste lands, and mining companies in our mountain districts, which in a commercial point of view are of the most, and in an agricultural, of the least, value to the owners.

When Ireland had her parliament, a kind of compact was established between the two countries, by which the woollen trade (once the staple of Ireland) was given up to England, and the linen substituted as the staple manufacture of that country; and in virtue of this settlement, the linen trade was secured to Ireland by bounties, a linen board, and other protecting barriers.—These barriers have been all removed; and not only has England left Ireland to *shift* for herself, but by the advantage which her capital and science give her over this country, she has established machinery

for spinning fine linen yarn on her own soil, opened bleach-greens in various places, and now threatens to take from us, (or to leave *profitless* to our hand-workers, which is the same thing) this last manufacturing resource of a rapidly multiplying population.

It would be very great folly upon our part, to commence a quarrel with England for having availed herself of the lights of science to render her capital increasingly productive. It is what every country and family are bound to do by the law of reason : but how does it happen, we enquire, that while men of rank in England are ever at their post, and ever ready to unite when a great national benefit is to be achieved, that heaven and earth cannot move men of the same station in Ireland to imitate their example; although, if steady and united, they might do much towards advancing the trade and commerce of their country, an improvement of their own resources, and a profitable employment of the working population.

## CHAPTER III.

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### A TOUR OF OBSERVATION AND RESEARCH, &c.

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#### COUNTY OF ANTRIM.

##### THE O'NEILL ESTATES.

ALTHOUGH this county is in the North-east district, and we have already published a general survey thereof in "Ireland exhibited to England," yet as, in our recent progress from Belfast to the north-west country, we stopped some time in the north of Antrim, and not only visited several seats and villages that we had not seen before, but received some useful original information relative to the soil and resources of certain properties; we shall take the liberty of introducing our notes on these properties to the notice of the English reader, in the regular order of our Tour; and should his curiosity be excited to look farther and deeper into the natural history of this county, he may have that curiosity fully satisfied by procuring the work just noticed, (if not out of print) or by a reference to the statistical survey of this county, by the Rev. Mr. Dubardieu, at the rooms of the Dublin Society, in Kildare-street, Dublin.

##### THE O'NEILL ESTATES.

These lands are situated in the baronies of Upper and Lower Toome, and Lower Antrim, in this county, and constitute a very considerable proportion of the soil of these baronies.

With their superficial measurement, or the exact proportions of mountain, bog, and arable, which they contain, we are not acquainted; but the few following facts in their



natural history, indicative of the facilities which they possess for the employment of capital in trade (and which we received from a respectable individual well acquainted with these lands), being more or less calculated to draw the attention of England to the rich resources of this county; while the lighter topographical descriptions will entertain the reader in his passage with us to the north-west district, we shall therefore introduce them to his notice in the regular order of our notes.

And first, these lands are known to contain iron, from the existence of an extensive mine which was once worked here. At that time (perhaps a century or a century and a half ago) a large proportion of the country was covered with wood; and as the removal of this timber was essential to the cultivation of the soil, the iron was manufactured with charcoal, which answered the double purpose of clearing the land and working the mineral; while lime for smelting it was conveyed from the opposite shores of Lough Neagh, which washes a considerable proportion of the O'Neill estates upon the Antrim side of that Lough.

As these estates contain several thousand acres of improvable mountain, it is not improbable (that is, if a geological survey of this tract should hereafter be executed) that other minerals applicable to manufacturing purposes may yet be discovered; but as (in the absence of such a survey) we can know but little of their treasures, we shall only add, that on the event of its being clearly ascertained that these mountains are depositaries of iron and other valuable ores, or of clays, applicable to manufacturing purposes, Lough Neagh, and the Lower Bann, which open a communication, by water, with the neighbouring counties of Armagh, Derry, and Tyrone, would furnish admirable facilities for rendering the treasures of those counties, and particularly the coal districts of Tyrone, eminently tributary to the prosperity of all public works in this region of the Lough; while the ready communication, both by land and water, with Belfast, the principal maritime town of the province of Ulster, would

open an easy communication with the ocean, for the conveyance of such manufactures to foreign markets.

#### A COLLIERY ON THE ANTRIM ESTATE.

This colliery (according to our information) is under the direction of Messrs. Caulfield and Staples, who had recently commenced working at a place called Kiltymurris, between the towns of Ballymoney and Ballymena.—At the period of our tour, the company had not penetrated much below the surface of the soil, and the produce of their labours bore the appearance of charcoal. A specimen was produced, and placed in our presence on the parlour fire at Hollybrook (the seat next noticed), and, combined with turf, it made a strong fire, but burned without flame or smoke. From this specimen, no just inference of the quality of the mine can be deduced, as it came from the surface. But as the late Sir Humphrey Davy is said to have inspected the indications, and to have pronounced them *good*, it is to be hoped the conductors of this mine will find ample compensation for their capital and labours when they sink deeper.

N. B. For *specimens* of minerals, applicable to purposes of trade in the north-west district of this province (Ulster), see the succeeding counties, more particularly that of Donegal.

#### HOLLYBROOK.—GRACEHILL.

Hollybrook is the seat of Mrs. Mc Manus, a respectable tenant on the Randalstown estate, (one of those properties of the Earl O'Neill that we have just noticed.)

It comprehends a neat family edifice, and twenty Irish acres of demesne (equivalent to about twenty-five English), ornamentally planted; and is situated on the road communicating between the village of Randalstown and the town of Ballymena, which latter is a place of some trade, a weekly linen market being still maintained there. Within a short distance of this town, is situated the village of Gracehill, rendered famous in this part of Ulster by the settlement of a church of the United Brethren, usually called Moravians,

whose services (in the department of religious, moral, and literary education,) are justly and highly appreciated by the respectability of Antrim. But institutions under the direction of such societies as this, could find no adequate existence or protection in any other than the enlightened Protestant districts of the country.

In speaking of the waters of this soil, Mrs. Mc Manus expressed an opinion that her water is a strong chalybeate. We tasted it, but found it to be a mild palatable water, pure from any sensible mineral impregnation; and as we could not learn that it had been analyzed, neither could we torture the lady's peculiar taste, or that of her friends, into a proof that iron exists within the narrow limits of her tastefully improved premises; since by rules of art *alone* can these peculiar properties of nature be distinctly ascertained.

This pretty rural residence stands about six and a half miles from Ballymena, and nearly two from Randalstown, which is the port town to it.

#### TOWN OF BALLYMONEY.

(Including reflections on the character and actions of the patriot Hutchinson.)

The individual of principal note in the *commercial* history of this town, is a Mr. James Thompson, a merchant in the provision trade; and who is also an extensive manufacturer of soap and tobacco, with which useful articles of home consumption, he supplies divers shopkeepers in the adjacent towns, and a large proportion of the respectable inhabitants of the neighbouring country; and besides him there are a few others in the provision trade *on a small scale*, some tolerably good shops, a very respectable hotel, and an extensive brewery, that shall be presently noticed.

Provisions from this neighbourhood are generally shipped for England, at Derry or Belfast; but we cannot understand why Coleraine (its local capital) might not, at a small expense, be made the place of exportation for the produce of the north of Antrim.

The Mr. Thompson, just noticed, is regarded as a useful



inhabitant of this town and country, not only in reference to the trade which he carries on, but also to the interest which he takes in every scheme of improvement calculated to promote the prosperity of his rural district. To him that district is indebted for great exertions to procure presentments for the erection of a suspension bridge of wrought iron, over that part of the river Bann which approximates with it, and forms a line of separation between it and the opposite county of Derry. The old wooden bridge on this part of the river, being now, in Mr. Thompson's opinion, extremely dangerous, the improvement, just noticed, (if his views be correct) is, of course, loudly called for, as being indispensable to the security of passengers; and a new bridge, opening a *safe* communication between the two counties, would materially facilitate the trade of both districts. And here a question very naturally arises. Are the grand juries of Antrim and Derry fully convinced, that a bridge for the safe accommodation of two most important counties, is at least an improvement of equal consequence with that of a smooth and level road to the most superb and distinguished of their own residences; and if so, on what principle of just policy, if the latter be granted, can a presentment for the former be refused? It is true we do not know the reasons which the grand juries of these counties may have had for withholding a grant, that, according to the views of Mr. Thompson and his friends, have an irresistible claim to the attention of the legal authorities; but while writing on this subject we recollect, that similar and *superior* energies have been exerted to procure a safe and sufficient bridge over the river Lagan, at Belfast, and have failed also, notwithstanding the old bridge that has long existed there, has been pronounced dangerous and incompetent, by professed architects, who have inspected it; notwithstanding that divers cracks and flaws are said to have been seen in that old building; notwithstanding that another old bridge, its predecessor in faults and follies, is said to have come tumbling down there; notwithstanding that it is *the only direct communication existing*

between a rich agricultural country in the north of Downshire, and Belfast, the principal mart of sale, or place of exportation for its various produce; notwithstanding that there is a perpetual flux and reflux of passengers and heavy loading over that dangerous bridge; notwithstanding that if an accident should happen there, many lives and much property might be suddenly destroyed; and lastly, notwithstanding the mayor and merchants of Belfast, and many other public spirited individuals, who have a lively interest in the prosperity of the country (among whom though last, not least, is Dr. Stuart, the talented editor and joint proprietor of the Guardian newspaper, whose columns have been repeatedly embarked in this, as well as in other important branches of the public service) have used their utmost exertions to bring about a unanimity of *public* feeling upon this subject; and yet up to the year 1831, when we last visited Belfast, all these united exertions had not succeeded in procuring the necessary facilities for the execution of a work of such obvious importance to the public security, although it is not at all improbable but many roads and bridges of minor value to the country, were made or repaired during the discussion of this question; and perhaps until a fatal accident shall happen, in which the lives of the King's subjects may be lost, their cattle and other property destroyed, and the communication cut off between Belfast and the neighbouring country, the unanimity essential to the execution of this work of justice, may never be arrived at! If such, then, be the state of this more large and important question, Mr. Thompson need not be surprised that his exertions in the service of the lesser speculation, should not have rapidly succeeded, (even supposing his views to be correct) as it is a task of considerable difficulty to wield the elephant machinery of two Irish grand juries *in any question in which there is no other argument to advance, than the trade and agricultural interest of any section of a country, with which the members of these juries may not be closely connected, and well acquainted with all the bearings of the case.*

## THE PATRIOT HUTCHINSON.

While in the neighbourhood of Ballymoney, we visited Mr. George Hutchinson, the resident magistrate of that town, whose name we notice with the more pleasure, as being a descendant of that patriot Hutchinson, the member for Westminster, who made a noble resistance to the septennial act, in 1716. We saw this gentleman's speech on this great question, in a book published in London, Anno 1722; and as (to those who have felt and deplored the ruinous results of that treacherous act against the liberties of the nation) his name will be deservedly dear, so we here present it to the friends of parliamentary reform, as a precious relic, that they may place it upon their hearts, and embalm it with their tears.

The effects of the septennial act, which that gentleman so ably resisted; the floods of venality and corruption which it let in upon the House of Commons, and the burthens which it imposed upon the people for the maintenance of pampered luxury, have been too long and too deeply impressed upon the labourer's heart, and upon the monuments of English industry and English liberty and law, to require any comment.

These injuries are now likely to be partially repaired, by the late reviving virtue of a *deluded* and long slumbering nation; but at such a crisis, it becomes the double duty of the historian, to rescue from unmerited obscurity, the names of those illustrious dead, who, in an unsuccessful struggle with the demons of corruption, fell, gloriously contending for their country's rights in the ranks of liberty!

Among these names we find that of Hutchinson, and we hand it to the British historian with pride, that he may place it in a distinguished niche in the renovated monuments of his country's glory.

Hutchinson, thy name shall be revived and venerated, when British gratitude awakes to a sense of shame, for the cupidity and cowardice, by which Englishmen permitted



the grand bulwarks of their rights, and the ancient monuments of their country's fame, to have been laid prostrate by the hand of political corruption ! When the temple of British liberty has been re-edified and placed upon its ancient base, cleansed from the corruptions that have so long defiled it ; then shall thy name, O Hutchinson ! be seen glittering in characters of gold over its proudest vestibulum ; and the foreigner who approaches to view that glorious edifice by the light of AN UNCLOUDED SUN, and to mark the names inscribed upon it, to whom liberty was dear, shall see that of the patriot Hutchinson, (with the words " resistance to the septennial act " engraved upon it in capitals of gold) and he shall report that name to distant nations.

Little did the traitors who sold their country's rights for a mess of pottage, and who (in their eager grasp after bribes and other temporary benefits) forgot the names to which liberty stands indebted. Little did they see, when holding forth their hand for the reward of prostitution, that in placing the representation of their country in the hands of a corrupt minister, or those of a wicked and oppressive oligarchy, they were exchanging the bread and beef and good warm clothing of the English labourer, for rags and fasting fare, and placing their own liberties upon a base as evanescent, as that of the virtue of a selfish and unprincipled race of pampered oppressors !

This patriot Hutchinson does not appear to have been one of those men of mock virtue, who are loud in their clamours for public justice, and at the same time exceedingly insensible to the claims of their reduced relatives, and still more deeply indifferent to the individual sufferings of their countrymen, reduced to the last stage of physical misfortune, by the wicked and oppressive insitutions of a corrupt system.

He bequeathed £15,000 to his poor relations in Ireland. He founded an hospital and other institutions in Glasgow, where a branch of the family resided, and where their tomb may be still seen in the cemetery of the Troan church. Divers of the old inhabitants of Glasgow enjoy the bounty

of his family to the amount of £18 or £20 per annum each; and the hospitals and schools of their institution in that town are well maintained, being under the direction of the provost, baillies, and clergy of Glasgow, for the time being. In addition to the love of public justice and the spirit of private humanity, which he so eminently possessed, it may also be observed, that he was a man endowed with a strong and penetrating mind, capable of detecting fallacies, and of perceiving the good and evil results in which principles and measures would eventually issue. His opposition to the septennial act was not the only proof of this, for he also exposed the delusions of the South Sea bubble, in an able work which he wrote and published on that subject.

In fact, whether we regard this man in the character of a patriot and statesman, or in the numerous varied relations of private life, in all these respects his name appears to merit a niche in the temple of British fame, and to be worthy of being held up in the mirror of history, as an object of *imitation* to British statesmen, and of merited admiration and gratitude to his long injured country.

The Ballymoney branch of the Hutchinson family, removed from Scotland to Stronocum, in the County of Antrim, about the year 1614, and settled on a valuable tract of land which they procured from Sir Randall Mc Donnell of Dunluce castle, an ancestor of the Antrim family; and this valuable property is still in their possession, and contains, we understand, strong indications of coal and other mineral wealth.

#### BALNAMORE MILLS,

(With the surrounding Scenery.)

These mills, which are the property of Mr. Samuel Smith, include a mill for the manufacture of flax into strong yarn, calculated for sail cloth and other similar uses, and a corn mill, both turned by the Ballymoney river, which empties its waters into the river Bann, a short distance from this place.

Those valuable mills, with a beautiful cottage, (the family residence) stand on a highly improved demesne of one hundred and forty-two Conyngham acres (a measure nearly midway between the English and Irish standards), on a county road communicating between Coleraine and Ballymoney, by the river Bann, over which this seat of business and of beauty, commands a rich and picturesque view of Leslie hill, a seat beautifully planted, and standing on a noble site proudly elevated above the river; as also of Knocklead, one of the loftiest mountains in the County of Antrim; and thus uniting with its own internal graces (among which an artificial lake, that washes the base of the cottage lawn, is not the least) a fair proportion of the scenery of this section of the river; Balnamore combines, in its domestic history, the pleasures of prospect with the profits of trade, which latter, in the peculiar branch of manufacture in which Mr. Smith was engaged in 1830, was comparatively lucrative at that time, the yarn for sail cloth being then in excellent demand, and the houses in that branch of business but few in number.

The mill employed in this trade, is said to be capable of manufacturing about eighty tons of flax, annually, into strong yarn, having four hundred and twenty spindles, and a never failing supply of water. The corn mill was also in good repair, and, as might be expected in a populous neighbourhood where meal constitutes the stamina of the manufacturer's food, was well employed at the usual season.

We were altogether charmed with this little scene of business and pleasure; the only drawback to this enjoyment being the indisposition of the useful and respectable proprietor, who though confined to his bed, had the politeness to see us, and to favour us with the few facts that were necessary to this report of his improvements.

Balnamore mills stand (on the road above noticed) about thirty-six Irish miles north of Belfast, twenty-nine south of Londonderry (by Coleraine), and two miles west of Ballymoney, which is the port town to them.



## MOOREFORT.

Moorefort (so called from an ancient fort upon the lands) is reputed to be a place of some antiquity; the ancestor of Mr. Moore, the present proprietor, having settled here (according to our information) in the reign of James I., by whom a number of Protestant colonies were planted in the North of Ireland, and of course protected by the laws; and hence the obvious advantage which Ulster possesses over the other provinces, in the useful arts, and in the blessings of peace and civilization.

Moorefort, though an ancient place, contains however no other mark of its antiquity than the fort just noticed; and as this forms no badge of its English connection, (these artificial mounds being of a much more ancient date) we shall proceed to make a remark or two upon its *existing* history, as this alone comes within the range of that system of *practical improvement*, which is the *paramount* object of this humble work.

We found Moorefort in the infancy of a system of artificial regeneration, and altogether in her undress. She did not, however, hide herself, like some coy ladies, but shewed an open and honest front, with such other evidences of her natural good qualities, as prove to demonstration, that she will look well when she is in *full dress*. A new house (to which splendid approaches with corresponding plantations were talked of) was then in progress of erection. The fields appropriated to a demesne, containing about sixty Conyngham acres (an extent by no means contemptible in a manufacturing county where land is extremely valuable) of a soil adapted to purposes of feeding and culture, are part and parcel of the townland of Drumnahagles, and are well circumstanced for commanding an extensive prospect of the surrounding country.

On the west, the landscape is enclosed by the Derry mountains, and beautified by the crystal current of the Bann, sweeping through a richly cultivated plain. In the

immediate neighbourhood of Moorefort, the lofty planted seat noticed in our last description (and which is a conspicuous and beautiful object in all the landscapes of this district of the river,) exhibits its snow white walls and rich plantations to great advantage; and by a diversion of the eye towards the coast of Antrim, the mountain of Knocklead is seen to raise its lofty summit above the general scene, in all the pride of its gigantic grandeur.

When the improvements already hinted at have been completed, Moorefort will be a seat of considerable respectability in this section of the county. At present, however, its most valuable characteristic, is that by which the domestic commerce of the district is promoted through an extensive distillery on the lands, where the farmer finds a ready sale for his corn, and a certain proportion of the labouring poor profitable employment; and to these important objects an extensive brewery of Mr. Moore's, in the town of Ballymoney, is also rendered eminently tributary. In these establishments, sixteen thousand barrels of barley, with a considerable quantity of oats, are said to be annually consumed. Moorefort is therefore a place of some consequence to the substantial interests of its own neighbourhood.

It stands over the river Bann, which washes the western margin of the demesne, and is situated on a county road, four and a half miles south of Coleraine, and three west of Ballymoney, which is the post town to it.

#### COLDAGH.

In giving specimens of the seats in this neighbourhood, we must not overlook a neat cottage beauty, which attracted our attention on a smooth sheltered road within one mile of Ballymoney. It is the property of a Mr. Cramsie, the proprietor of a weekly mercantile journal in Belfast; and although it stands on a lowly site closely approximating with the road, and sheltered from public view by a small plantation, it presented such marks of taste in its arrangement, and such charms of solitude for the man of con-

templative habits, as irresistibly impelled us to enter and review it.

We found it standing on a demesne of about forty acres, situated on a bank of the Ballymoney river, over which it commands an interesting view of the splendid demesne of O'Harabrook on the distant shore ; and, in reference to privacy and all necessary accommodations, it is indeed an interesting humble retreat from the noise and bustle of the world.

These cottage beauties, when blended in a scene with trading establishments, warm farm houses, well cultivated fields, thriving plantations, good roads, bridges, and fences, the splendid seats of a rich and resident proprietary, and in a country embellished with lakes, lofty mountains, (bending under forests of oak) rapid rivers, (fertilizing the country, and rolling numerous mills) bleach greens glistening in the sun, with well cropped gardens, and whitewashed cabins of the labourers (seen in the distance at the mountain foot)—all these intermixed, and united in one open and expansive scene, present to the eye of humanity, such evidences of the progress of knowledge, taste, wealth, and good government, (and we remember when the North of Ireland was precisely the country for such scenes of human felicity as this) as force the philanthropist to cry out, in the language of Penn to Cortes, concerning his improvements in the new world—“ Here is a sight for an angel to behold ! ” \*

#### BROOKHALL.

This is the seat of Mr. Samuel Boyce, and comprises a good plain new built house, and a well cultivated farm of fifty acres, on the Antrim estate, held by Mr. Boyce and his heirs for ever, subject to a small chief rent.

It stands on a good site, near the public road ; and, in the aspect of the house and lawn, the stranger finds conspicuous evidence of the proprietor's taste for improvement, inde-

\* See the Dialogue between Penn and Cortes, in Lyttleton's Dialogues of the Dead.



pendent of those more important regulations, which are connected with the culture of his lands.

The soil, though (like some other tracts in this district of Antrim) by no means of prime quality, exhibits proofs of good farming economy; and thus carefully treated, is said to produce good vegetable and corn crops, and to be very grassy.

A rivulet, supplied by inexhaustible springs, passes through these lands, and, in its progress through the neighbouring country, turns one corn mill, as also a paper mill (situated on the lands of Island Deffrick, within one mile of Brookhall) the property of Mr. Ward, an extensive paper merchant of Belfast; but there is no other water, nor no indications of minerals applicable to purposes of trade, yet discovered in the vicinity of Brookhall, that we could hear of.

When this respectable farm has been adequately planted, (and hedge rows, though they occupy but little space, are exceedingly ornamental and useful) it will be a very interesting feature of improvement on this part of the Antrim property. It stands on the direct road communicating between Coleraine and the village of Dervock, two and a half miles east of Coleraine, which is the post town to it.

#### TOWN OF COLERAINE—INTENDED VISIT TO THE GIANT'S CAUSEWAY.

After recovering from a painful and tedious illness in Coleraine (the effect, we believe, of a bed and rooms that had been seldom, if at all occupied during the preceding winter,) we took a note of this town, which is a place of some trade in the north of Antrim, watered by the river Bann, and not far distant from the sea; and, as a corporate town, governed by a mayor, and returning one member to the imperial parliament, it may be regarded as a place of some distinction in the political history of this county.

From hence we proceeded to pay a visit to the Giant's Causeway, rather for the enjoyment of pleasure than for the purpose of description, (as we had previously discharged

that duty in "Ireland exhibited to England,") but our flattering prospect of pleasure in this excursion was soon blasted; for a little before our arrival at the place, we were surrounded by such a host of ill looking fellows, (who were for *forcing* their services as guides and expositors; and it so happened that we wanted neither, and if we did, would not have chosen such men as these,) that we preferred postponing our visit to the Causeway, until we could approach it in a boat by moonlight, as by no other means can a stranger escape from the fangs of the ruffians who infest that place. When the first of these fellows, with whom our driver appeared to be very familiar, approached to converse with him, we supposed him to be an old acquaintance, who with the warmth of feeling so peculiar to an Irishman, improved this accidental meeting to a momentary interchange of kind inquiries. In a few minutes however this delusion vanished; as the fellow, instead of saying farewell in decent time, kept running with the carriage until he was joined by one of his own profession, and then by another; and so on, as the vehicle proceeded; until, by the time of our arrival at the entrance to the Causeway, a gang was assembled; before whom the most *respectable* company of convicts that were ever transmitted to the coast, from the Old Bailey of London, or the Court House in Green-street Dublin, for *foreign service*, would have done homage!

By this time the reader will suppose, and suppose rightly, that we had got enough of this *pleasurable* excursion, without descending to the Causeway, to convert it by the presence of such a gang as this, into a picture of Pluto's dominions, with a number of his Godship's guards assembled round the gates, to conduct us to the depths of —. Oh yes, the *approach* to the Causeway was quite enough, and therefore we consoled ourselves for this disappointment by a flattering conception, that the dignity and solemnity of the scene would derive incalculable advantages from the stillness of night, and the unbroken solitude of our own reflections; while Cynthia, shedding the fullness of her queen like lustre

upon the magnificent scene before us, we might then hope to enjoy the sweet works of nature without a rude embrace, and without any painful reference to the *charms* of Pluto, and his dark dominions. This was, at least, a bit of very convenient philosophy for the composition of our chagrin, at a time when we were surrounded by a host of as ill looking fellows as ever infested the forests of France, or the high roads of Italy and Spain.

And here a question naturally arises. Could not the lords of the soil wall in the approach to this distinguished place, and admit strangers through an iron gate, protected by a trusty and intelligent porter and his sons *who had seen service*, and who might discharge the double duty of guards and conductors, rather than cause the visitors of this curiosity (some of whom travel from distant countries) either totally to lose the object of their journey, or to purchase it at such an expense of feeling, as must prove a serious drawback to the pleasures of the scene, while it is a painful imposition upon the stranger's liberty?

This nuisance, which in the commencement was trifling, and a mere matter of amusement to travellers, has recently risen to such an enormous height, as to call loudly upon the magistrates of the country to repress it; and also (for the protection just noticed) upon the lords of the approach, whose shameful inattention to the accommodation of strangers, in a country famed for its hospitality, is deeply discreditable both to their country and to them.

We trust this hint to the gentlemen of the neighbourhood, and this appeal to the generous feelings of the lords of the approach, will procure such protection for strangers who may hereafter visit this distinguished curiosity, as may leave them no room to complain of the hospitality of the country, or of the police regulations of the district to which the Causeway is attached.

After this disappointment we returned to Coleraine, and visited several distinguished improvements that we had not previously seen; among which, Somerset, the seat and pri-



vate property of the Rev. Mr. Richardson, Rector of Macosquin, deserves to be particularly noticed, as an appendage of no mean beauty to the town.

#### SOMERSET.

This seat stands nobly elevated above the river Bann, on a demesne (or property) of 400 acres, situated on the Derry side of that river, within one mile of Coleraine; of which town, divers lofty positions in the region of the river command an interesting prospect. The lands, which appear to be highly improved, embrace 95 acres of wood, and the river which washes their base, sweeps by them through a picturesque valley richly planted, and decorated with bleach greens and other monuments of trade; altogether constituting a most cheerful and interesting scene. But the evidences of a once prosperous, and still useful manufacture, are not solitary in the north of Antrim; they extend, more or less, along the whole course of the river Bann, and provide employment for many industrious manufacturing families, who usefully and conveniently combine the twofold occupation of farmers and weavers.

Of the linen establishments in the north of Antrim here adverted to, the two following are respectable specimens.

#### LEGHINMORE.

This is the seat of an extensive bleach green, the property of Mr. John Dickey, and is a distinguished feature of improvement on the estate of Wm. Adair, Esq., on which the market and post town of Ballymena is situated.

Leghinmore, in connection with its bleach green, (where about 25,000 pieces of 25 yards each are annually bleached) includes a good dwelling-house and offices, and nearly 40 Conyngham acres of a productive soil. It is situated in the immediate neighbourhood of Ballymena, which is the post town to it.

The markets for the sale of the goods bleached here, vary according to connection and demand; but wheresoever the

goods may be sold, the primary benefit centres in our own country, and thus gives to the resident merchant a decided superiority over the absentee landlord, by whom the income of that country is consumed in foreign lands.

The average of manual labour on the bleaching establishments of this neighbourhood, is one shilling per day *the year round*; and *that*, considering the recent low price of provisions, is moderate remuneration in the present state of trade.

The descriptions of linens bleached here, include a general assortment of 3-4, 7-8, and 4-4 breadths, of classes extending from 7 to 15 hundreds, of as good a texture as the markets of the north provide of these classes, in the present state of the linen manufacture.

#### LISNAFILLAN.

This is the denomination of the seat and extensive bleaching establishment of Messrs. James and Robert Young, where about 20,000 pieces of various classes of linen cloth, between 7 and 20 hundreds, are annually bleached, and chiefly disposed of in foreign markets. Breadths and qualities of linens, and labourers wages, pretty much the same as in the last description.

In reference to the substantial quality of that class of linens, commonly known in the north of Ireland by the name of Coleraine's, (a name *surreptitiously assumed* by other and *inferior* manufactures, but which, in its proper and legitimate sense, is a term exclusively confined to the goods of that class, manufactured in the north of Antrim) we never saw any linens of the same breadth and count, (when we were in the linen trade thirty or forty years since) that in the purity of their flax and substantiality of their workmanship, could at all compare with them. Such of them as came under our observation at that time, in a somewhat distant district, were those which ran from 10 to 12 hundreds, from 31 to 32 inches wide; and for linens of that class we never saw any that could compare with them;

but from the few opportunities that we have recently had of seeing specimens of the same manufacture, we apprehend they are not now made quite so strong as they were at that time; although they still continue to maintain a rank of respectability, in that *decayed dispensation* of the Irish linen trade which our wealthier sister (in *the conscientious performance of her agreement*, and in the perfection of that *overreaching policy* by which her treatment of Ireland has been always distinguished) has thought proper to reach forth to us.

In reference to the *quantity* of business now transacted in the linen trade in the north of Antrim, from the best information that we could procure upon the spot, we believe it to be fully equal to any thing done by the merchants in this section of the county, even in the best of times; but in reference to the *profits* of this trade (if the voice of general report may be relied on) they do not amount to *one half* of those which were reaped by the merchants of Ulster from this harvest-field, when the trade of Ireland basked under the sunshine of a protecting legislature; but although other causes besides the loss of her domestic parliament, have contributed to lay waste the trade of Ireland; yet to this act of political c—s—t—n, (by which her powers of commercial propagation were for ever paralysed,) may be fairly attributed (as to its principal source) the gradual decline of trade in all its branches from that period to this.

#### BUSHMILLS.

This village (which derives some distinction in the history of Antrim from its proximity to the Giant's Causeway) is a place of small extent, although a port town, and having four fairs in the year. Its principal inhabitant is Hugh Anderson, Esq., a gentleman who possesses a fee-simple estate of about 2,000 Conyngham acres in the neighbouring parish of Ballintoy, and that of Billy, in which Bushmills stands. It may be worthy of note in the topography of this latter parish, that of 12,500 acres which it is computed to contain,



no less than 3,500 are composed of bog or peat. There is a distillery in this village, built by Mr. Anderson, in which pure malt whiskey only is manufactured; and which we conceived to be the strongest and cheapest spirit of this pure class that we had ever tasted, either of foreign or British manufacture. It was sold at that time by retail at Bushmills so low as one shilling per British pint; and consequently it is not surprising that when fortune has thrown an Irishman of limited income into London, where dear weak rum (a single tumbler of rum punch having cost us 1s. 6d. in London, and which composed of Irish spirits of equal strength, would sell for about four or five-pence at an ordinary tavern in Dublin,) and a sort of liquor called gin, which is the most abominable composition in the name of SPIRITS that we ever tasted, are the ordinary beverage of the middle and lower classes. It is not surprising, we say, that an Irishman in London should remember his own country, when compelled to pay eighteen-pence for a glass of punch, (cheap national liquor being one of the few benefits which England has been pleased to leave to us,) but as we have now no domestic legislature to protect Irish trade or Irish talent, the unfortunate native has no choice but that of bringing his goods for sale to the English market, where he pays dear for every thing; or of shipping himself and them to a foreign country, where he has neither a protector nor a home.

#### BALLYDIVITY.

This is the seat of James Stewart Moore, Esq., a magistrate for this county. It comprehends a good family edifice, and 120 Irish acres of a demesne tolerably well wooded with certain kinds of timber, together with ample accommodation of turbary, &c.

The elevated soils are, for the most part, Mr. Moore observes, composed of cold clay and gravel; while the low and moory lands, which form a considerable proportion, are grassy and well adapted to vegetable productions. In refer-

ence to corn crops and trees of the larger and stronger kinds, the lands situated on this part of the coast are said to be rather sterile, the north and north-west winds blowing from the ocean, being peculiarly unfavourable to the growth and perfection of the oak and other strong timber. This reminds us of a bit of natural history from which we may draw a moral. The willow and the sallow (like the imperishable virtue of humility) bend to the blast, and survive the storm, and even thrive and flourish in the coldest marshy soils; but the stubborn oak will not prosper in the same circumstances (notwithstanding its well-known power, when full grown, to weather many a storm.) It will decline, when young, in proportion as it is exposed to the keen breeze of the northern and western waters; and when old, it will stiffly resist, and obstinately refuse to bend before the god of the northern tempest; wherefore Boreas comes forward with redoubled fury from his icy pole, to assert his dominion over land and sea; and in one fell swoop he lays the rebellious disputer of his power level with the ground! Thus it fares with the pride of man; and thus the protection which true humility secures to him.

Considering, therefore, that nature has not been extremely propitious to this place, it is probable the present resident and his predecessors, have planted and improved as much upon these lands, as was compatible with the circumstances of their soil and climate; and hence, through their skill and industry, Ballidivity exhibits the appearance of a place pretty well sheltered by surrounding trees, and of somewhat ancient respectability, though standing upon a lowly site.—But if it cannot boast of the perfection of its soil, the beauty of its prospect, or the splendour of its approaches, it enjoys the security and comfort of shelter upon a plain; and this, in certain aspects, is perhaps a more substantial advantage than the pleasures of prospect, or the pride of a lofty over a position cold and stormy sea.

This seat is situated on the post-road communicating between Ballymoney and the Giant's Causeway, three miles

south of the latter, six north-west of the former, and from Dervock, which is the post-town to it, about two miles.

#### LISCONNAN.

This is the denomination by which the property and residence of Dr. Samuel Allen, stands distinguished among the seats and properties of this section of the county. Its agricultural improvements, early crops, and the employment afforded to the labouring poor, by the culture of the lands, in a neighbourhood of wild aspect, and surrounded by bogs, (and of course totally destitute of the picturesque) constitute the characteristic features of this place.

There are 300 English acres of this soil under cultivation, and on the last day of May, 1830, when middling and bad farmers were putting their potatoe crop under *first cover*, a part of this Irish staple crop on the lands of Lisconnan (a place remote from any of those great cities which invite a *forced cultivation*,) were actually in blossom! This, however, might be expected from the science with which the system of agriculture appears to be carried on here, and which has probably made a much more rapid advance among the small farmers in England and Scotland, than among persons of the same rank in our own country. This may be accounted for on various grounds. First, the poverty of the small farmers in Ireland, which, placing them in a state of comparative dependence upon their landlords and others, for whom they are obliged occasionally to labour, they cannot sow their own crops early, even if they would. Neither can they adopt the best mode of culture when they do sow; as, in many instances, they have no other instrument than their spade and shovel, and no other cattle than their cow and pig. Secondly. An obstinate attachment to their old customs, with an obvious indifference to all new improvements, for which they cannot be expected to have any peculiar taste, in the state of ignorance and poverty in which their circumstances have placed them. Thirdly. The gay and thoughtless tone of feeling which is



observable in the Irish character and course of life, and which, in the living language of practice appears to say, "Take no thought for the morrow." Lastly. The illegal associations in which so many of the Irish peasantry are engaged, and all of which are totally incompatible with those habits of industry and sobriety, without which it is utterly impossible for a man of small means to amend his circumstances. These are the causes why agriculture in Ireland has not (in reference to the great body of the people) made the same rapid march as in the sister countries; and in this state Ireland will continue, until the progress of education, and an improvement in the physical circumstances of the working classes have rendered them capable of tasting the sweets of moral order, and given them a bias towards the enjoyment of those sober pleasures, which are inseparable from the acquisition, and even from the *pursuit*, of useful knowledge.

In a district by no means well wooded, and where various attempts to bring trees to maturity on the coast have failed, we saw on the lands of Lisconnan, though surrounded by bogs, one remarkably fine ash-tree, and two of the largest chesnut-trees that we recollect to have noticed in this section of the county.

In reference to prospect, but little that is flattering can be expected in a neighbourhood which (with the exception of two gentlemen's seats,) presents the eye with one unbroken view of wild and uncultivated heath. Over this wild heath, and the river Bush (which forms a boundary to this property on the west,) the plantations of Leslie-hill and Benvardin, are seen lending a small proportion of their influence to rescue this scene from absolute inanity; but besides these improvements, and those of the lands on which you stand, the eye has nothing but bog on which to repose itself, and of this useful, but not very sparkling surface, four or five hundred acres, extending to the neighbourhood of Dervock, are attached to this property.

There is a corn mill here; and Dr. Allen says there are

chalybeate springs, once resorted to for the cure of ulcers, but now fallen into disuse.

Lisconnan stands on a bye road, which opens a communication between Coleraine and Dervock, which is the post town to it, and from which it is nearly two miles distant.

A new road was being made from Ballymoney, through the Garrybog, to the road just noticed, when we passed through this county, in 1830.

#### KNOCKMORE.

This is the seat and fee farm of Mr. Hugh Mc Kay, and may be regarded as an interesting feature of improvement on the public road communicating between Coleraine and Ballycastle.

It stands like a snow drop on a gentle elevation above the village of Mosside ; and is the only respectable residence in the immediate neighbourhood of that village.

The building and appendages, comprehending a neat lodge in the villa style, with suitable offices, excellent quick-set fences, ornamental plantations, and other useful improvements, executed on a tract of one hundred Conyngham acres of arable and pasture, neatly divided, and exhibiting proofs of the best cultivation ; are, for the most part, the offspring of the taste and industry of the present proprietor ; and to his farm, thus beautified and improved, fifty acres of bog are usefully annexed.

There are two mills, one for corn, and one for dressing flax, on this property, turned by a water called the Mosside river, from the neighbouring village through which it passes. This village stands on the property of the Mc Kay family, and the best houses in it have been built by the proprietor of this seat.

The soil is composed of a cold clay on a substratum of gravel, requiring high manuring and cultivation, and producing, when thus treated, good crops of barley and oats, and is proportionably grassy.

Of minerals or fossils, applicable to purposes of trade, we could procure no information.

Knockmore stands about nine miles north east of Coleraine, six south west of Ballycastle, four from Bushmills, three from the mountain of Knocklead, (which forms such a noble and conspicuous feature in the landscapes of this neighbourhood) and from Dervock, which is the post town to it, three miles.

#### CRAIG AND CULRESHESKIN.

These townlands, the property of John Mc Neale, Esq. of Ballycastle, are situated, according to our information, within three miles of the Giant's Causeway, on the same shore. They contain about four hundred acres, but of what description of soil, or how situated as to minerals or fossils applicable to trade, we did not learn.

The average rent for good arable land in this neighbourhood, is from a guinea to thirty shillings the Conyngham acre. Average wages of labourers without food, ten-pence daily; in harvest, ten-pence with food. The linen trade is in a low state in this neighbourhood.

#### BALLYCASTLE.

This village, which is by far the most interesting and beautifully situated of any we have seen in this section of Antrim, stands on the northern coast of this county, under the shadow of the lofty mountain of Knocklead, which sheds an incomparable influence of grandeur upon the village scene; at the northern extremity of which, a noble sea view bursts upon the eye, with the charming promontory of Fairhead standing over it; and these being grouped with the neat habitations of the village, the ruins of a castle once the residence of a branch of the Antrim family, the spire of the village church raising its spheric cone above the trees and surrounding houses, and the whole scene reposing under the gigantic shadow of Knocklead, altogether constituted the most picturesque group of beauties, and the most sedu-



cing subject for the pencil of the painter, of any village scene that we had witnessed in the progress of our excursions through this section of the county.

Ballycastle stands on the property of the Boyd family, and is one among many of the constituents of the ancient Atrim estate, now (by deeds of sale) for ever separated from that property. It has been chosen by divers families of fortune as their place of summer residence, being healthfully situated on the sea shore, and of course well circumstanced for sea bathing.

This village was once the seat of extensive glass works, (now extinct) and coal mines also are still worked here, and continue to supply the distilleries, forges, and some private establishments, with portions of this useful mineral; although at the period of our visit they were said to be in a languid state; but whether from a failure in the tenure, the demand, the money, the mineral, or the men, we did not learn; although, from the peculiar circumstances of the property, the first is the probable cause of their declension.

The spirited founder of these works, was the late Hugh Boyd, Esq., great grandfather to the present proprietor, who is said to be in a situation which renders him incapable of granting liberal leases. And as, in such circumstances, no adequate encouragement to embark capital, either in the *commencement* or in the *extension* of public works, can be expected or procured, it is to be feared that these coal mines, however useful to the country, will be wholly abandoned.

By the will of the aforesaid Hugh Boyd, the resident clergyman, officiating in this chapel of ease, (for we believe it is not the parish church that exists here) enjoys a pension of £40. per annum, to which £20. are added by the board of first fruits: and by the same will, twenty of the old cottars and their widows, have each a snug cottage with a garden, and a life annuity of £4.

We visited these cottages in company with Capt. Sampson of Ballycastle, to whose information we are chiefly indebted for the abridged history of this place; and in the observa-

tion of the living and loud speaking monuments of that noble mind, from which this village, its charities, and its public works, derived their existence, it was not unnatural that we should put to our mind this secret question—What would Ireland be, if every town and village in the country had a landlord like this?

## CHAPTER IV.

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### COUNTY OF LONDONDERRY.

THIS county is separated from that of Antrim by the river Bann; and having crossed this river from Coleraine, (a town on the Antrim bank of that river, already noticed) we proceeded on our tour slowly towards the city of Derry, (the name which for brevity is usually given to the city and county, on which we are now entering) and having visited several sections of the Derry district, and taken notes of the places most worthy of observation, we submit to the inspection of the reader the following memoranda of our tour.

#### BRISTOL FOLLY.

Before our final departure from Coleraine, we had the pleasure of inspecting the *exterior* of a very magnificent palace (with a splendid monument on the lawn) erected by the late Lord Bristol, Bishop of Derry, on a bank beautifully elevated above Lough Foyle, on the Derry shore, about six miles distant from Coleraine, which is the post town to it.

The *ground work* of a fine scene has been laid here by nature, in the ELEVATED LANDS which enclose the Lough, both on the Donegal and Derry coast; but unfortunately for the picturesque, the appearance of this seat (from a total absence of wood on the neighbouring coast) is wretchedly bleak and barren; and bleak and barren (even to the production of a sentiment of pity for the misfortune of such a princely *experiment*) will this seat remain; for it is said, no effort of human art to bring wood to perfection, on this portion of the coast, has yet succeeded, the sea and the winds being set against it.

This bleak palace is now occupied, as we have heard, by



a near relative of the founder, and we wish the gentleman joy of his inheritance; for limited as our fortune is, and laborious as our employments are, we would not accept a present of this princely palace, on condition that we should spend our winter nights in contending with the rude and barbarous forces (a true emblem of the northern countries from whence they come) despatched by Boreas across the ocean against this *defenceless* coast, in the dark and tempestuous nights of a winter campaign.

Concerning the magnificence of this bleak abortion, we would say, in the language of Sallust, “*Quid ea memorem, a privatis compluribus subversos montes, maria constructa esse? Quibus mihi ludibrio videntur fuisse divitiæ!*” \*

#### FRUIT HILL,

(With general observations on the neighbouring country, including the London Fishmonger's Estate.)

On advancing towards Newtownlimavady, in the county of Derry (in his progress from Coleraine to the city of Derry,) the traveller ascends, through a rather wild and ill-wooded country, a distance of about six Irish miles, to the summit of a lofty chain of elevated land, commanding an extensive prospect of the distant country, including the waters of Lough Foyle, and the lofty mountains of Donegal and Derry. These mountains form the bold outlines of a landscape, in which (with the exception of Lough Foyle) the principal beauties of the country are either totally concealed from view, or indistinctly seen; while all that is rude and unplanted is forced upon the eye, which takes its survey of the county of Derry and the coast of Donegal, from this bleak position.

When he has descended from the summit of this lofty chain (disgusted with the rude and unplanted prospect which it presented,) about half way towards the valley in which Newtownlimavady is situated, he will no longer believe himself to be in the same country. All that was

\* What need I mention instances of this sort of FOLLY; that mountains have been levelled, and seas built upon by many private individuals, who appear to me to have thus wasted their wealth in mere sport!

ungracious to the eye, begins to disappear; and as he continues to descend, the country assumes such a new and fructified appearance, that what with its regenerated aspect, and what with the beauties of Fruit-hill, in the vale below him, suddenly bursting upon the view, (with the mountains which enclose this spacious amphitheatre, losing all their savage rudeness, and softening into gentle blue) the traveller begins to find himself in a situation somewhat similar to that of the doubting Musselman, whose scepticism the Turkish Doctors, (whether of magic or divinity, we forget) effectually cured, by imparting to him the superhuman power of witnessing mighty revolutions, in a tour through kingdoms and communities, during the short space of time in which they plunged the sceptic's head into a tub of water! For this story of the East, (which under the operation of such a sudden change we could not well get over) we do not, at the present moment, recollect a more plump parallel in the west, than that of the great *jump* of St. Patrick across the wide ocean in two steps, (as one of the biographers of that holy man has gravely asserted) and that England should not be behind hand in these mighty works, we have introduced a learned minister of the *new* English school into the note below, who, we have no doubt, (had he flourished in the 10th century) would have been as cunning a manufacturer of charms and *enchantments*, as any Turkish or European Doctor of that age, who has transmitted to posterity his experiments in the art of magic.\*

Having now disposed of the old and long forgotten images, which this sudden change called into new and vivid existence; we beg to resume the thread of our tour, thus suddenly

\* We recollect to have heard from a Mr. Wilson, a correspondent of the celebrated Dr. Adam Clarke, that this learned commentator considered "the Arabian Nights entertainments," to be an excellent book for youth; and a useful preparation for the study of the Christian Bible, or to this effect! The Arabian Nights entertainments (a very *enchanting* work) being therefore a good preparation for the study of the Scriptures, we have placed it in connection with the Eastern *enchantment* above noticed, under the distinguished patronage of the celebrated commentator, Doctor Clarke.

snapped asunder by a vision of the Turkish Doctors ; it being the well known prerogative of these gentlemen to break the thread of REASON by their *enchancements*, (and in this art they are at least equalled by the Hindoo Doctors, who make the poor degraded victims of their VILLAINY, believe that their idols LIVE ! ) Thus have the great mass of mankind, in all ages, been governed by the powerful spring of *an habitual delusion*, practised upon their understandings for the sake of gain. And in this *moral* end, as the SUN and CENTRE of all *human* systems of religion, their creeds, however contradictory to each other, terminated as in a common point.

On entering the county of Derry from that of Antrim, by the elevated chain of soil just noticed, we were strongly reminded of our ascent from the county of Roscommon to that of Sligo, in our approach to the Sligo coast, in 1827 ; as these latter counties are separated from each other by a similarly elevated chain ; with these two points of distinction however, that the Sligo elevation, as you ascend it from the town of Boyle, in the county of Roscommon, is a much higher ascent, and the country beyond it towards the coast, more eminently picturesque, and more thickly studded with gentlemen's seats and villas. The similarity however in the geography of the soil, between these different portions of the Irish coast, will be regarded by the traveller, to whom every feature of a scene, and every incident, is impressive ; if not as actually important in the natural history of the country, still, as not utterly useless to the English reader of indolent habits and a splenetic constitution ; as it may combine with other more essential ingredients in the same compound, to present him with a useful antidote to the spleen of his climate in the gloomy month of November, (in which, if a certain French novelist is to be believed, the English take a *short method* of escaping from their *ennui*) by occupying his thoughts with a tour in the sister country, calculated to divert him from shorter and more serious tours in that gloomy month ; and carrying with it this important addi-



tional recommendation, that his Irish tour may be performed under the protection of English law in his own house, without exchanging civilities with the savages of the sister isle, and without any other companions to disturb his meditations than those of Tabby and the house dog—while his slippers, spectacles, and easy chair, his toast and coffee warm on the table, and a fire of the best English coal blazing cheerfully before him, will all contribute their due proportion of assistance to the prosecution of his travels. These are the inducements to a perusal of this book, which we hold out to those splenetic Englishmen of easy fortune, who having nothing to do in the gloomy month of November, may be tempted to enter *by a short passage* upon a longer and more dangerous tour than that of Ireland; and in a country still less known, and vastly more dreaded, than even the Emerald isle, with all the acts of savage brutality and summary vengeance, that have been so liberally imputed to it by the Tory press.

To the enterprising English merchant, it is not necessary to hold out the same inducement to a perusal of this book, as that which we have just tendered to the man of indolent habits and easy fortune, as a cure for English spleen in the gloomy month of November. The merchant's hands are too full of business, and his head too heavily loaded with the cares of trade, for *ennui* to enter there and find a safe resting place. To him we present our country, as a wilderness of briars and thorns, pregnant with virgin treasures; and it is his obvious interest to assist every patriotic Irishman in a removal of those briars and thorns from the soil of law. So shall Ireland prove to him a safe and profitable theatre for the embarkation of his capital; and England prove to Ireland, what she has long and falsely professed herself to be—a *sister* country.

When you have descended so low into the valley as to have a distinct perception of the beauties of *Fruit-hill* (a very ridiculous cognomen, by the bye, for a seat in a sequestered vale,) the sensations produced by the bleak mountain

prospect, will, by this time, have altogether yielded to feelings of admiration and delight. Here, standing a little elevated above the valley beneath your eye, you find every thing that is rude and offensive completely shut out. Here the blue summits of the surrounding mountains, and these only, shed the richness of their sombre shadow over the variegated scene, uniting at once the influence of the soft and the sublime!—The lodge stands like a snow-drop in the vale, surrounded by swelling lawns, richly cultivated fields, and sporting plantations, extending the attractions of their beauty to the neighbouring roads, and to the distant outposts; and had the demesne been enriched by an artificial lake, fringed with suitable plantations, in full view of the house, the lawn, and the grand entrance; with vistas, opening a few well-selected views from the house and lawn, over the shining surface of the lake, to the distant mountains; what a finished picture of scenographic beauty would have been here presented to the eye of taste; and what generous compensation for the penalties it had endured, in the contemplation of an almost immeasurable tract of apparently wild and unplanted country from the summit of a bleak mountain.

To these penalties, however, nothing so largely contributed in that wild prospect, as the bald and unplanted state of the surrounding mountains; which although the proper theatre of wood, and one where the sound of an axe should not be heard for a hundred years, did not present the prospect of a single tree!—That trees would not flourish on the sides and summits of those northern mountains which open to the sea, may have been so far ascertained by experiment, as to render any farther attempts to force their growth in that direction, a work of the highest futility; but can the same remark apply to the *inland* aspects of those mountains, which are sheltered from the storm by the mountain's colossal bulk, and which therefore present a barrier to the tempest at the dangerous point? And if it does not in truth apply to these aspects, why has not the experiment been

tried on land that in its present state is comparatively useless to its owners, and which if oak and other strong timber would grow there; in a course of years, would produce a sum that would purchase the fee simple of those mountains, as they now stand in a bald and unplanted state; and to these advantages may be added the magnificent effect of mountain-forests upon the general scenery of a country; and, in this particular landscape, these mountains, when bending in a beautiful circle of many miles under the weight of their resplendent plumage, waving over the waters of Lough Foyle, would produce a most imposing influence; while this Lough, reflecting back upon the eye of the spectator (standing upon its banks) the images of those mighty mountains, and their sombre forests, trembling with ecstasy in the mirror of its crystal vase; the combined influence of these beauties upon the scene, would present the spectator with a feast, in which the eye might luxuriate as in a sea of pleasure, but which genius would vainly labour to describe.

As we advanced into the country, and extended the sphere of our enquiries, we were much surprised to find that some of the unplanted mountains just noticed, are situated on the London Fishmonger's estate, where many useful improvements have been already executed; and among the rest, an extensive plantation of wood on the margin of Lough Foyle (under the shelter of some of these bald and unplanted elevations.) And as this wood appears to have effectually succeeded, it ought, we think, to have operated as a strong incentive to these gentlemen to plant that comparatively useless mountain-tract which stands over it, and which, in its present state, cannot possibly yield them any considerable amount of income, as lands of this description, are usually thrown in by *bulk* with good farms, at a trifling valuation, as a mountain run for young cattle.

In those mountain-tracts where the oak-tree will come to perfection, we have heard it asserted that this tree will pay the posterity of the planter for the ground which it covers, one pound per acre per annum, from the acorn to the axe!



The Irish plantation acre was here alluded to. But, supposing the estimate to have been over-rated, and the true return not more than one-half, or even say *one-fourth* of the above amount, the compensation to the planter of waste mountain, even in this latter case, would be a hundred per cent. more than what he now generally receives for land of that description in the shape of rent; as many thousands of acres do not pay to the proprietors 2s. annually each, and in laying down 2s. 6d. per acre as the average received for such waste lands as these, we imagine that we are rather over than under the correct value.

Should this hint reach the eye of the respectable company just noticed, it may perhaps induce them to turn their attention to this apparently neglected portion of their property, which, if trees could be brought to grow there, would constitute their mountain tract a very *valuable* and *beautiful* appendage to their other lands; and even this latter obvious effect of mountain wood, is not to be treated with contempt by the lords of a country, or the proprietors of an extensive tract of soil.

The course (in reference to planting) that we would think it prudent to pursue in a mountain tract of *doubtful* character, would be, to throw a few trees of various classes into various portions of the soil, (a small number of each class together in every place) and having given a sufficient period of probation to this experiment, be guided by its results, as to the *soils*, and *the kinds of timber* that nature appeared to have fitted for each other by her own secret and unsearchable decrees.—We think it very hard to be rambling so frequently from the dead letter of our subject; but it just now occurs to us, that if in another and more important species of planting than that of ash or oak, the adaptation of nature's works to each other, could be clearly ascertained before they are irrevocably united; the *human* plantations of the country would exhibit a much more healthful and harmonious appearance than that by which a large proportion of them are now distinguished, where a

host of heterogeneous productions having been forced into soils and compartments for which they were totally unfitted by nature, and left to grow up and grow old together, their stunted growth, and numerous *deformities* (to say nothing of the injurious and hostile contact, by which their arms are so frequently broken, and their bark blackened) pretty clearly prove that the first and most important of all human sciences is but little understood by these proud countries; and that when their wise men of Goshem formed farming societies for the improvement of their stock and soils and crops, they totally forgot to begin the work of reformation at head-quarters.

N. B. We request the Farming Society of Ireland may procure the above to be read to their members at their next meeting, by some gentleman *who knows how to read*; and that their example may be followed by every family where a similarly good reader can be found; a proviso which may be reasonably put in, as every man, equally with Shakspeare, hates to have his children *murdered* by those good people, who have the kindness, *pro tempore*, to bandy them from hand to hand.

On various mountain and other tracts on the coasts of Wicklow and Wexford, experiments in planting oak have been tried, and very happily succeeded; and some planters are said to have bequeathed thereby considerable fortunes to their sons; a fact, which if proved to the satisfaction of the lords of mountain tracts on other portions of the Irish coast, that ought surely to induce them to imitate this wholesome example.

As to the influence upon the appearance of a country, of the waving foliage of mountain forests, bending over the sea, and sparkling with an intermixture of beautiful villas, spires, obelisks, and other works of art—that influence must be obvious to every one conversant with the sublime and beautiful of foreign countries, or even with the superlatively rich landscapes of Wicklow and Wexford in our own. He who has seen the glens and mountains of Wicklow, covered with oak, enclosing magnificent sheets of translucent waters, exhibiting rich sea-views, and noble waterfalls and *lover's*

*leaps.\** He who has descended into Lugalaw and the Devil's Glen, who has visited the waterfall at Power's Court, and marked the antiquities of Glendaloch, and passed through the ruins of its churches, until he came to the bed of St. Kevin, over that beautiful lake, whose chaste waters retire from the public gaze to their lovely retreat, in a curve of the mountains. He who has drove by the sugar-loaf mountain, through the glen of the Downs, on a fine summer evening, and heard (as we have done) the music of many instruments, reverberating in sweet and celestial cadence from hill to hill, and from dell to dell, as the musicians filled their instruments on the lawn of a cottage of Mr. Latouche at the foot of the mountains. He who has thus traversed the coast of Wicklow, and visited the beauties and improvements of Delgany and Belleview, standing over the sea; and proceeded from thence to Ballyarthur and the meeting of the waters, within view of the golden vale.—He who has visited all these features of the Wicklow coast, and many others which we cannot name, and viewed the sea washing the whole extent of its lofty indented outline, covered with *wood*, will be at no loss to understand how largely tributary to the sum total of the rich effect of its combined beauties, this latter feature of its scenery has proved.

The garden of Fruit-hill is in tolerably good keeping with the other features of this place. It embraces an area of nearly three English acres, walled in, well stocked with fruit-trees in full bearing, rather too well stocked with apple-trees for the beauty of its appearance, (we speak not here of the *espaliers*, which are ornamental, and are the only bearer of the apple that we would admit into a garden) and include every class of vegetables necessary for the consumption of a house.

The demesne contains about 220 Conyngham acres, of a variable soil, all however fertile and productive, and evidently well adapted to the growth of plants. Among these we noticed a tract of rich loam, constituting good feeding

\* A certain point of a rocky eminence, standing over a deep glen near Powerscourt, is distinguished by the name of "The lover's leap."



ground, and where the agricultural visitor (whose heart enters into the interests of his country,) will be gratified with the appearance of some very fine cattle of the Ayrshire breed, whose good cheer, and comely appearance, very plainly proved that "the lines had fallen to them in pleasant places."

Of minerals or fossils applicable to purposes of trade, we neither saw nor heard of any indications here, save that of lime-stone, the best of all minerals for the farmer. The history of this place is, consequently, included in the fertility of the soil, the beauty of the landscape, and in those fine works of artificial improvement, which have been produced upon a good ground work by the improving finger of the present proprietor and his predecessors, who have held these lands under the See of Derry, for four successive generations.

The mail-coach road between Belfast and Londonderry, passes by this seat. It is the *better*, but by much the *longer* road, communicating between these ports. By this road Fruit-hill is distant from Belfast about sixty Irish miles, fourteen from Londonderry, and from Newtownlimavady, which is the post-town to it, two Irish miles.

#### NEWTOWNLIMAVADY.

(With remarks on the policy of imposing a high taxation upon Irish spirits; on the best mode of reforming the morals of the Irish people; on the British crime of murder by strangling; and on the National crimes and future prospects of England.)

This town is rather prettily situated on the river Roe; in the valley on whose banks you enjoy the prospect of a highly picturesque landscape in the immediate vicinity of the town, on the left hand side, as you enter upon the road which opens a communication between this town and Derry.

The finger of improvement upon the grand ground work of nature in this place, may be distinctly traced from the public road, as the lawns on the banks of the river, which are ornamentally planted, present open views of the demense to the passing traveller, and eminently combine with the distant mountain, and with that noble contrast of hill and

dale by which the scene is distinguished, to constitute this spot one of the most rich and interesting residences in the immediate neighbourhood of Newtownlimavady. With the name of the resident we are now totally unacquainted, having forgotten it in the lapse of time, and finding no reference to it in the memoranda of our tour; neither to the natural history of the soil, nor to the lord of those lands, upon which the town and neighbouring seats have been erected and embellished. We infer, however, from the improved appearance of the place, that the proprietor is a good landlord (perhaps the Marquis of Waterford, as he has an extensive property in the neighbourhood) and his tenants deserving of encouragement, from the decent hotel, shops, and other good buildings, which we saw there; and as the extensive possessions of the Beresford family, in the south of Ireland, (from all that we could learn in our passage through that province) are well and indulgently governed, the appearance of Newtownlimavady, and its neighbouring improvements, have led to a reasonable supposition that the town belongs to a rich and liberal proprietor.

Newtownlimavady is a place of some trade. It has two distilleries, one brewery, two malt houses, a small tan yard, and one soap, and one tobacco manufactory, on a small scale. Belfast, however, has absorbed within its commercial vortex, the much larger proportion of the manufacturing trade of all the neighbouring districts; and hence the decline of soap boiling, tobacco spinning, and leather tanning establishments, in the neighbourhood of Newtownlimavady, where formerly there were five or six of the latter, and now but one, doing a small share of business.

Of the two distilleries here, the larger and more extensive, as also the brewery, and one of the malt houses, are the property of Mr. Cather, a respectable inhabitant of this town, in whose establishments nearly 7,000 revenue barrels (twelve stone each) of barley and oats, have been annually consumed within the last few years; and previous to the change of law in 1825, about one-third more. These establishments must,

therefore, prove materially serviceable to the neighbouring farmer, who finds a market for his produce on the spot; and giving employment, as we hear they do, to forty or fifty poor labouring men in that immediate neighbourhood, they are equally beneficial to the many poor families who thus derive their subsistence from the trade and agriculture of the gentleman just noticed. To this kind of benefit however, (and a most important one it is in such a country as Ireland) the additional taxes on the national liquor, then talked of, if carried into effect, would prove a deep and serious drawback, as the sales of the fair trader would *rapidly decline*, and the number of hands employed by him, would, of course, be proportionably diminished. This led to a reflection upon the nature and tendency of this policy, as it affects the employment and morals of the Irish people, and even the interest of the British government itself. The policy may be founded on one principle only (that of producing an increase to the revenue) or there may be two objects in view; that which we have just mentioned; and such an increase in the price of Irish spirits, as would render it less accessible to the common people, and consequently less injurious to their morals and to the public peace, so frequently violated by the drunken quarrels of the country. We do not give the government much credit for the introduction of such an ingredient as this latter, into their composition of SUPPLIES (although the influence of quiet and sober habits upon the peace and prosperity of a country, is plain enough) but assuming, for arguments sake, what we do not believe, that an improvement in the morals of the people was at the bottom of this revenue raising policy, permit us for a few moments to examine it, briefly and plainly, upon both foundations.

And first, in reference to that increase of the revenue, which is the primary object of all *new* taxes, and of all *additions* to the old ones. Does not experience prove, that every increase of this kind, which operates as *a bar to consumption*, defeats itself? since in proportion as it drives the population



from the *use* of the article, it loses in one way what it gains in another; and thus without benefiting government by an increase of taxation, inflicts four deep and vital wounds upon the health and morals of the country: first, by the *encouragement* which exorbitant taxation affords to illicit trade. Secondly, by the *discouragement* which it affords to lawful manufactures. Thirdly, by that *reduction* of *open* and *honest* employment, which it necessarily produces. And lastly, by its tendency to force the labouring population of the country into the service of smugglers, and into all those scenes of vice and immorality which are inseparable from an unlawful trade. And now having produced all these evils, in the perfection of its wisdom, let us see what proportion of its own purposes it has been able to accomplish. If, in truth, it has diminished the *consumption* of *licensed* spirits, in a ratio with that increase to the price, which an increase of taxation produces, it has gained nothing in the shape of revenue; while, in reference to a *diminution in consumption* (the only *moral* object of such an increase,) it has failed also, since experience proves that Ireland will always be supplied with cheap whiskey, either by the lawful or unlawful manufacturer, and that government (do its best or do its worst,) can only have a choice of two evils, either to let the people get drunk according to law, by giving them whiskey which they can purchase, or force them at the point of the bayonet into the mountains on the coast, where, in defiance of the most vigilant police, they will make spirits, and convey it by a thousand channels to all the whiskey sellers in the country; and by a variety of those ingenious contrivances, in which the brains of a smuggler and his crew are so eminently fertile, they will find a thousand opportunities in the numerous defiles of the mountains, of making reprisals upon the guagers and the police for all the mischiefs which they had done to them, as the history of still hunting, if it could be fully collected, would eminently prove; and here we say nothing at all about the expense to government of this military system.

The *total impossibility* of either reforming the morals of the people, or procuring a large and sensible increase to the English revenue, *by an exorbitant taxation of Irish spirits*, being thus *conclusively* proved; and the evils which this policy produces, fairly traced to the CAUSE which produces them, it rests with us to shew how his majesty's revenue may be preserved, the nation saved from the evils inseparable from smuggling, and the interests of morality effectually promoted, without having recourse to a grinding system of taxation.

And first, as to the preservation of the revenue. It is well known by every one who knows Ireland, that the bulk of the spirits consumed by the population of that country, is not consumed by even and equal proportions, in small quantities, in circumstances of wet or cold, or for the useful and wholesome stimulation of the animal spirits in the labours of the field, or the equally consuming labours of the loom; but at fairs, markets, and funerals, in large and destructive quantities of this fiery liquid, which in a cold and moist climate, and under the pressure of strong and constant exertion, is a useful medicine if not intemperately used; and therefore assuming, for argument's sake, that the larger proportion of farmers and labourers, consume at their markets, funerals, and other places of public resort, the very small amount of seven wine glasses of spirits weekly per man, (and this is not a very extravagant computation in such a country as Ireland) our plan for the preservation of the revenue, (and the same stands good with regard to the improvement of our morals) is, by wise and judicious legislative enactments, to raise the tone of physical comfort and moral feeling so high in Ireland, as that every man for his own sake will consume the liquor of his country, to the same, or even to a *larger* amount than he now consumes it in *destructive* quantities, but in much smaller proportions, and at much more frequent intervals, as the damp of his climate, and the exhausting labours of the field and of the loom, may render needful to his health and strength. And having thus elevated the tone of moral

feeling and SELF-RESPECT in Ireland, by a sensible improvement in the knowledge and physical circumstances of the population, men will begin to feel that they have a character to preserve, and will be ashamed of exposing themselves to the ridicule and contempt, so justly due to a common drunkard in the public streets; and thus preserved by *a new principle* of SELF-RESPECT from public indecency, the tone of national character will be elevated and improved, while from the *increased resources* of the people, their attachment to the liquor of their country, and the numerous occasions for its *temperate* use, which a damp climate and constant physical exertion, unavoidably provide, the *aggregate* consumption of whiskey and beer, will be rather increased than diminished in that country; and, consequently, the revenue arising from this manufacture, will not only be preserved, but kept steadily marching forward with the prosperity of the people. It is thus the tone of public morality and SELF-RESPECT may be raised so high in Ireland, by education and domestic decency, that no man, above the rank of a fool who makes himself a butt of amusement for the country, will be seen bellowing and shouting in a state of intoxication in the public streets, (as is the common practice of the Irish peasantry) and thus the ends which we propose to ourselves, of combining the preservation and improvement of the public revenue, with the preservation and improvement of public morals, will be effectually answered, without driving the country into a contraband trade, by an ignorant and impolitic system of exorbitant taxation.

If any man shall stand up and say, that this is a state of society which could not be produced in Ireland, we beg to refer his attention to the astonishing proof of temperance and self-government, which the peasantry of Clare exhibited at the election of O'Connell for the representation of that county. During the week that this election continued (when the great bulk of the Irish peasantry were in the actual possession of a forty shilling vote, and in the *nominal* possession



of a forty shilling freehold,) no man of this description in the town of Ennis, where the election was conducted, was known to take more than one glass of spirits and one pint of porter during any one day while the poll was going on! Here then is a specimen of the change which may be wrought in the habits of the Irish peasantry, by a motive of sufficient power to determine their conduct; and on the truth of this fact, so generally and publicly known, we rest our argument for the possibility of effecting a great national reformation of morals in Ireland, by the adoption of such improvements in the knowledge and physical circumstances of the people, through legislative enactments, as shall have a natural tendency to raise them to the enjoyment of a station of SELF-RESPECT, above that low and corrupted region of prejudice and vice, which they now almost universally inhabit.

Our next duty is simply to ask this question. Can the peasantry of Ireland be raised to the moral rank which we have just noticed by a mere A B C education, while they are compelled to labour for the small sum of from four to six-pence per day (as many of them now are,) and not even fully employed at that price? Can they be thus raised so long as they shall be charged from eight to twelve guineas per acre for their potatoe ground? so long as no colonies of waste lands are formed in Ireland for their improvement? no manufactures encouraged! and no employment provided for unemployed or ill paid labourers and their families at public works? It is ridiculous to suppose that any nation in such circumstances, can be raised by a mere mockery of knowledge to the rank of citizens. None but fools or knaves would profess to believe it; and consequently if the Government have been brought to see, that an elevation of Ireland in the scale of intelligence and moral character, is essential to the improvement of the country, and to the security of the state, they will instantly enter upon a system of legislation, by which the rights of the working classes of that country may be protected against the numerous operations of that oppressive domestic power, by which their moral interests

have been retarded, and their ignorance and slavery secured.

It is by the enjoyment of useful knowledge, combined with domestic decency and plenty, that the tone of morality and self-respect can be raised above the vicious habits and vulgar prejudices of any nation. And as without such enjoyments, an ignorant and degraded people cannot be raised in the scale of intelligence and moral power above the rank of savage tribes; the benefits resulting to a free state from such an improved condition of society as shall teach men to respect themselves, are so incalculable, that no price can be too high to purchase them. Hence in this (and many other essays on the same subject) we have pointed the attention of our enlightened government to the absolute necessity of extending legislative protection to the Irish labourer, against the numerous domestic abuses which degrade and oppress him; and were this happy protection extended to him, and the moral and physical effects of such a system developed, the establishment of a small library of history, mechanics, and natural philosophy, in every parish, as an appendage to the present partial system of education, would then prove useful, as a lever to raise and elevate him in that scale of character and self-respect, which is the usual accompaniment of intellectual improvement.

It is somewhat remarkable that there are few or no drunkards to be found in France, notwithstanding that it is a vine country, that many of its peasantry are employed in the manufacture of the finest wines in Europe, and that they are by nature, education, (and in virtue of their climate) the most gay, polite, and *vivacious* people upon earth! The reason, however, is self-evident.—The French are a civilized and polished people, and know the value of their mental faculties too well, to abuse them by habitual drunkenness.—They have a principle of SELF-RESPECT which raises them above these low and licentious enjoyments; but were they to employ the Irish people, and their neighbours of North Britain, to assist them in the pressing of their grapes, Paddy

and his brother Andrew would undoubtedly taste the liquor (for without hantelling the wine, Paddy would swear that a Kilreugh would come over it) and having hantel'd it in the Irish and Scotch fashion (and they are no churls in this way,) Andy would fall upon the ground, and blubber out his devotions to Bacchus in broken accents of broad Scotch; while Paddy, throwing off his caubeen,\* and flourishing his sprig of shillalagh (which he had kept near him as a memento of his country) would go over his devotions in a louder and loftier key; springing from the ground with every motion of his shillalagh, he would cut capers with the knees of his breeches open, like a merry-andrew on the stage; until, having pronounced "who *dare* sneeze," and called for fight a hundred times over, to the no small amusement of his French companions, he would at length sink into a deep sleep, and forget the comedy in which he had acted so ridiculous a part.

Having thus proved (we hope to the satisfaction of our readers) that the true cure for habits of intemperance is not a demoralizing and trade-ruining system of high taxation, but the superinduction of a principle of self-preservation and self-respect; need the necessity of creating this new principle, and of grafting it upon the wild vine of Irish genius and generosity, by laws which shall secure to the labourer his rights, be farther urged upon the government of this country. They have had ample opportunity of witnessing the nature and effects of that system, in which the rights of the poor have been contemptuously neglected. In the awful reactions, and insecurity of life and property, (witness the Westmeath and other late magisterial memorials calling upon the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland for increased powers to protect life and property in their counties.) In the awful reactions, we say, which this system has produced, the Government have surely had sufficiently strong and conclusive evidence of its inefficiency and error.—Descended as we are from an English family, and attached by prin-

\* Canbeen, an old hat.



ciple and education to the British interests, we nevertheless cannot avoid yielding to painful feelings for the future destiny of the British Empire, when we consider its horrible extremes of luxury, slavery, and want, and the incalculable mass of crime and misery for which no adequate remedy has been provided by the laws! When we consider that similar causes, rising to their zenith, have produced the downfall of the most powerful states. When we take a retrospective view of the barbarous northern hordes, which were made the instruments of crumbling into dust the once resistless power of the Roman empire. When we are forced to observe that similar hordes are still in existence, and may at any time be made use of as a rod in the hand of avenging justice. When we bend over the page of history, and there learn not only the doctrine of CAUSE and EFFECT, but see some traces of RETRIBUTIVE JUSTICE in the *exit* of great heroes, and in the decline and downfall of empires, deeply corrupted by luxury and oppression. When we look into the history of many high families whose pride has been laid prostrate in the dust, and recollect the various punishments with which our own personal offences have been justly visited. When we find in the book of *human* history such proofs as these, and perceive the confirmation which they derive from Scripture prophecy, and from the living history of the Jews, whose destiny was predicted, and whose temple and city, in defiance of the efforts of the Emperor Julian, and notwithstanding the mass of wealth which the Jews have acquired in all nations, has never been re-edified. When we direct our attention to these inferential evidences of the secret government of a Power, at whose command "Nations and empires rise and fall, flourish and decay," we feel justified in believing, that national, (as well as individual) retribution, will be awfully administered, when the cup of political oppression and injustice has risen to the brim. Farther—when we look over the British colonies, and perceive many millions of human beings in the East and West Indies, dragging out a miserable existence in the

chains of a hopeless oppression, and the dark dungeons of a still more cruel and enslaving idolatry. When we add to all this, the unjust and impolitic contempt with which the vices and the sufferings of the poor of Ireland have been treated. When we look at the horrible corruptions of civil and ecclesiastical law, by which justice is rendered inaccessible to the injured, and scouted with scorn from her own temple gates. When we think of these things, and remember that the barbarous hordes of the North are not yet extinct (and Heaven only knows when they may be made our scourge) we look with painful emotion over our beloved country, and in the language of one formerly, exclaim, Alas the day ! \*

\* In alluding to England's DESTINY and England's offences, we cannot consistently with our duty to that country, pass over a species of inhuman crime, well known to exist in the British empire, although apparently but little noticed by the government itself ; for we never saw a shilling (whereas there should have been many thousands of pounds) of reward offered, for the discovery of the TRADERS in the species of crime that we are about to notice, (although for the detection of the forger of an endorsement, or the plunderer of a £5 note from a mail bag, there would be public proclamations, offering LARGE REWARDS !) and that is the crime of MURDER BY STRANGLING, for which stupifying draughts, and other acts of treachery, are the usual preparatives. And this is the crime (a crime not committed under the influence of any passion having its origin in nature, but purely from the love of gain) that is now said to be extensively practised in the way of TRADE, in all the principal ports and cities, having a free and easy communication with the schools of anatomy under the crown of England ; and from which, in connection with the raising of dead bodies, there is good reason to believe many abandoned subjects of that country have recently derived their chief support !

O England ! hast thou and thy sciences come to this ! and canst thou believe with this EVIDENCE of thy guilt and judicial blindness, (the evidence of a crime more deep and deadly than any committed by the women who devoured their children, under the pressure of hunger at the siege of Jerusalem, when the last dregs of the cup of divine vengeance were poured upon that criminal city.) Canst thou believe, with this evidence of thy guilt before thee, added to all the previous oppressions and corruptions of thy CHURCH and LAWS, that the day of thy visitation is still far off ? Thou mayest believe so, and why not, since the rulers of the Jews believed the very same thing, when they murdered Jesus for exposing their corruptions. And with the same judicial blindness, the same hypocrisy, the same oppressions, and the same hardness of heart, they entered into the cloud of that siege which was to

We hope the reader will excuse the introduction of these apparently irrelevant reflections, which were totally unlooked

destroy them, and which finally exploded in a flame that burned up those murderers and their city, as Christ had foretold them in a parable that was plain enough. Now let it be remembered, that with all the malice, all the wicked hypocrisy, all the pride, and all the oppressions of these Jews; still they never descended so low in the scale of common humanity, from all that we have yet heard of their history, as to carry on a regularly organized system of treachery and murder for the sake of gain! No. This last sad stone in the climax of a nation's fall, has been reserved for Christian England! and up to this period, it does not appear that she has stepped so far out of her ordinary path to intercept its progress, as she would have done for the breaking open of a mail bag, or for the forgery of a subject's name to a bill of exchange upon an army agent of these countries, for the trifling sum of twenty pounds!

O England! if this be thy history, and we appeal to facts, wonder not that we believe the signs which rest upon thy political horizon to be ominous indeed! It is true, thou hast offered up prayers (and it was well to do so) to Him, "at whose command nations and empires rise and fall, flourish and decay," that he might avert the judgments, to which our sins have so righteously exposed us. But hast thou with thy prayers (for the Jews prayed also even when they murdered Jesus!) Hast thou put away the evil of thy doings from before his eyes? Hast thou offered large rewards for the discovery of the murderers employed in the professors trade? or hast thou closed thy eyes against the light of those facts which was perpetually pressing around them, and only opened them wide when a solitary object (a midge among millions in a summer sun) was officiously forced upon thy view as an unwelcome and disgusting object? Ah England, if this has been thy case, we fear that thy prayers will not be accepted as a substitute for the reformation of thy laws, nor for thy negligence in rooting out an evil from the land that could not maintain itself for forty-eight hours in the presence of one wise and humane statute, properly supported by the powers of the state.

And what is this statute? Why it is a statute that must have presented itself to every one of common sense—to every one who has reason enough to know, that where a war has been carried on between prejudice upon one side, and life, confidence, and security upon the other, that the silly assailant prejudice should be made to yield, and to yield at once. "Dust we are, and unto dust we must return;" and with as much reason as we would wage a war with this decree of God, would we wage a war with the worms that will feed upon the bodies of our friends when they are decomposed; nor will those anatomists consult our feelings, however tender, or however sacred (and sacred no doubt they are to the sorrowing breast) when they come to apply their instruments of separation to the putrid remains of all that was once peculiarly dear to us, and which we may still regard with a weak and idolatrous devotion.



for, and wholly unthought of, when we sat down to compose a brief description of Newtownlimavady from our notes.

To treat the venerable feelings of family affection with tenderness and respect, is an obvious duty of humanity, and can be well reconciled to the practice of a profession that would prove useful and honourable to the country, if purified from crime; but which, in the present state of the laws, is sufficient to produce a deterioration of character and feeling among the numerous youth of that profession, from which the mind of moral sensibility shrinks with indescribable horror. Let those, therefore, who, with ample means of removing the causes by which crime, and the deterioration of the youthful mind, are thus forced upon the country, seem nevertheless determined to retain the profession in its present state, be answerable for the consequences of their deeds, since we have endeavoured to discharge the duty which we owe to our country, on one of the most painful subjects that has ever presented itself before us since the circumstances of the British empire became the prominent object of our thoughts.

And now to the Act of Parliament, by which we would put an end to this horrid and inhuman traffic.

That act we would make, like the Catholic relief bill, so thoroughly extensive, that no temptation to break it could exist. We would open all the cemeteries of the country to the profession—we would wall them in, and place guards upon them of sufficient strength to protect the profession in the exercise of their rights, and to exclude all persons entering them for hostile purposes. We would continue to maintain these guards until prejudice had been forced to yield; nor would we, in the exercise of this warfare, voluntarily murder any living thing, save and except the aforesaid prejudice, which we would send to the literary anatomists for dissection, long before it had died a natural death, and which (in comparison of the period of its existence) it would very soon do, and leave no other trace behind it than that of SHAME and SORROW for all the evils that it had been permitted to produce in an enlightened age, and in a country calling itself by the sacred name of HIM, who “came to seek and to save that which was lost.” Should it be deemed expedient to introduce any exceptions into such a bill (we mean exceptions to the opening of graves by the profession in the broad light of day) we, if we possessed the power, would allow but two—namely, those graves whose dead had been given up for dissection before interment; and the graves of those families which chose to purchase exemption from an operation so well calculated to discover the seat and source of family diseases, by paying £50 to the poor fund of the parish. These are the only exceptions to the operations of such an act that we would make; and as they would not be numerous, a superabundance of subjects would always be at hand, and consequently the British islands would be saved from a repetition of those crimes which have disgraced the country, deteriorated the minds of youth, destroyed private confidence, covered the anatomical profession with hatred and suspicion, and which, if not quickly abolished, may bring down upon the nation, the awful judgments of Almighty God.

If their importance (in the Author's view) shall not be deemed a sufficient apology for the intrusion of such matter into the description of an Irish town, he hopes the improvement of his country, and the obvious motive of such reflections, will be accepted, together with the ardent wish which he feels, that her government and great men (too many of whom, by a criminal neglect of justice, and an exclusive pursuit of selfish interests, have too well merited the character of oppressors) may by true repentance, and works of righteous legislation corresponding with it, restore the suspended sword of justice to its scabbard, before that Power, who is the protector of innocence, and the avenger of oppression, and from whose decision there is no appeal, shall plead with them in *stronger language* than that of *gentle warning*.

Having now finished our appeal to the higher powers, we shall proceed to the short concluding paragraph of Newtownlimavady.

There is an excellent weekly market in this town for corn and other produce; also four fairs in the year, five houses for public worship, a good hotel, a dispensary and post-office, a few gentlemen's houses, several respectable shops, a rapidly declining linen trade, and from the aspect of the place, the population, may be estimated at about 2,000 souls.

#### BELLEARENA.

This beautiful promenade of the fine lady (for such appears to be the signification of the name,) is the seat of Conolly Gage, Esq.; and, like that of Fruit-hill, is a distinguished feature of improvement in the very extensive and princely paradise of the See of Derry.

It stands under the romantic mountain-rocks of Magilligan, on the picturesque banks of the river Roe; and in approaching it from Newtownlimavady, you have an interesting view of its *first aspect* from an elevation on the road. Here, the plantation on this margin of the demesne, forms a dense mass of foliage on the banks of the river, which in that place assumes the appearance of a crystal lake, surmounted

a little farther on (where the river drops into a bed of narrower dimensions,) by a wooden bridge of light and elegant construction. From this elevation, the view of the blue summits of the Donegal mountains, over the lake and plantations of Bellearena, is rich in the extreme; but from this or any similar position on the road, you can see but few of the *interior* features of this place, as it stands on a plain embosomed in its own plantations, enclosed on the road-side by an extensive wall; and therefore to mark the beauties and improvements of Bellearena, you must enter it by the grand gate, when a short drive will conduct you within view of the house, through lawns beautifully planted, enriched and watered by the river Roe, and commanding an open and interesting prospect to the distant mountains of Donegal beyond Lough Foyle.

The demesne contains, according to our information, 250 acres thus planted and improved; and has been held under the See of Derry for two centuries by the family of the present occupant.

The country beyond Bellearena towards the sea, is covered with mountain rock, and looks wild in the extreme. No lakes embellish it; no woods enrich it; and, from the general aspect of the surface, we think the soil is poor.

Between this seat and Newtownlimavady there are two glebe-houses. One of these, on an elevated position at the foot of the mountains (denominated Aghaloo, from the parish to which it belongs) is the residence of the Rev. Mr. Smily, the Rector. This seat has the hermit's boast, the charms of solitude, and the pleasures of a wild prospect; but in the situation and appearance of the parish church upon the plain, at the opposite side of the road (the best architectural object in that landscape) some compensation is made to the sensitive and nervous eye for the horrors of this wild prospect. As to the church of Mr. Graham (the talented and soldierly Rector of Magilligan) on the *wild rocky hill*, somewhat nearer to Bellearena, *that* may indeed boast the fury of the tempest, the flashes of the fiery star, and the vivid lightning of the meteor, blending with the



thunder-storm, and with the generous dash of sunshine, to give life and variety to the rocky scene; but beyond these there are few objects to call off the traveller's attention, in a drive of seven or eight English miles on this road from Newtownlimavady.

#### THE MANOR OF WALWORTH.

(The property of the Company of the Hon. the Fishmongers of London.)

This property (according to the information we received upon the spot) consists of 20,000 English acres, a large proportion of which is mountain land, producing but little rent, but which, if planted, would probably pay well, as the wood already put down between a portion of this mountain and Lough Foyle, on the road between Newtownlimavady and Derry, appears to have succeeded, and is now, in itself, a property of considerable value.

The rents of the low lands are said to graduate, (and we refer to the proprietors themselves for the truth or falsehood of the information we received) from half a pound to two pounds ten shillings per acre, according to the quality of the soil, and the improvements made thereon, whether by the proprietors or the tenant, although certainly the cases are specifically different, as, on well governed estates in this country and England, we *believe* it is not the usual practice, and we are *sure* it *ought not*, to charge the tenant for his own or family improvements. Let us, however, briefly consider the plan of government, which a proprietary, knowing Ireland, and desiring to promote its own interests, would be likely to adopt, in order to secure a steady advancement in the value of private property, by a progressive outlay of the tenant's profits in durable improvements. That plan undoubtedly would be, in such a country as Ireland; first to give leases of three lives or thirty-one years to solvent tenants; and secondly, when these expired, to *renew* the tenant's lease at *the fair value of his land*, without taxing that land with *rent* for the money which himself or his fathers had expended in building, planting, or other useful improvements. The landlord who enters on such a

course of taxing as this, adopts the very first principle for securing a progressive decline of his estate. That decline (like the rack rent system) may be slow, and for some time scarcely perceptible; but if every cause must have an effect commensurate with the nature and character of that cause, the end of this *taxing* system will be POVERTY, and a *gradual decline* of all valuable improvements on such a property. Whether haggard POVERTY has already begun to develop its *first fruits*, at the new and interesting village of Ballykelly on this estate, we leave the respectable proprietors to judge; at the same time by no means presuming to say, if such poverty exists, what cause has produced it; but rather anxious to contribute the humble mite of our information to a company, who have merited well of the county of Derry, by the large sums of money which they have there expended in valuable buildings, and who must wish to advance the interests of the property for their own sakes (although we feel that if existing members have but a life interest in these lands; without great public spirit on their part, this merely life interest will always operate as a bar to the adoption of that *generous* policy, which would rapidly advance its value; and hence the comparatively unproductive state of all those corporate lands, whose improvement has not been promoted by *good tenures* and other corresponding encouragement.) The plan for securing the progressive improvement of a landed property, by a progressive expenditure of the cultivator's profits upon his farm, being thus laid down, (for by the *taxing* and *short lease* policy, you must maintain all valuable improvements yourself, and to mend the matter, will have few or no tenants of property to hold under you; and why should you? since your system is one that is only adapted to the condition of *slaves* and *beggars*.) This plan then being on a level with the plainest capacity, and obviously forming the ground work of all other institutions to be adopted for the prosperity of the estate; let us examine, for a moment, what the institutions are, *next* to good leases and moderate rents, that are most likely to prove tributary to that

end. Of these institutions then, neither books nor medicine form the essential substance; although with both of these, the company (like other good and wise landlords) have liberally provided their tenantry by medical and educational establishments in the manor. The institutions to which we allude, have reference to a much more primary object; namely, the cure of POVERTY, (which is THE PARENT OF IGNORANCE AND THE FORERUNNER OF DISEASE.) And to any man who knows Ireland, and who has witnessed the care that is taken to provide dispensaries and school books for the people, while that POVERTY and WANT OF EMPLOYMENT, which are the curse of the country, (and the source of all its most dangerous endemics) are permitted to go forward with accumulating force! To any such man, we say, this zeal for filling the stomachs of a hungry peasantry with drugs, and their heads with letters, while their *primary wants* are unprovided for, assumes so ridiculous an appearance, that it is not possible for a man of warm feelings, to speak or write upon such a subject, without being in danger of stumbling upon terms of very culpable contempt. But is this the way that lords Farnham and Lorton, (or any other lords knowing Ireland and their own interests) provide for the improvent of their estates? Not at all; they give liberal encouragement to honest solvent tenants; and from these, under the direction of such landlords, all useful improvements as naturally flow as the oak follows from the acorn, or the branches from the vine. Thus placed in a capacity of doing well for themselves, (that is, of providing for their *primary wants*,) then indeed schools for the education of youth, and houses, and skilful persons, for the dispensation of medicine, are useful institutions on a gentleman's estate; and from him to his people are very valuable presents; but, separate from a thriving tenantry, they are not only totally unequal to the evils which they are intended to remove, but well calculated to produce a sentiment of pity, if not a sensation of contempt, at the observation of that *stupid* species of intellect which works by an *inversion* of the order of common sense!!!



Before proceeding farther, in the investigation of this subject, we shall recite a short anecdote, which bears a little upon the point before us. When travelling in the county of Roscommon, in 1827, (and let the reader remember that this is not a manufacturing protestant county, like that of Derry; and consequently does not possess *half its advantages*) we were very much struck with the highly improved appearance of various parts of Lord Lorton's property in the northern section of that county; but happening to observe that Mr. Stafford, a very respectable tenant on the Boyle estate, had not planted and improved to the extent that we expected. "Sir," said he, "the farm on which you now stand, was formerly part and parcel of a tract of land in possession of the crown; and as those who rented it knew nothing of their landlord, could not be sure of paying their rent to the same agent a second year, and had not that kind of security for an outlay of their capital which is essential to confidence, I neither built nor planted beyond what you see. The case, however, is now different; Lord Lorton has made a purchase of these lands. We know our landlord and we esteem him," (and here if any remark was made by the speaker, who is a Roman Catholic of property and information, upon his landlord's religion and politics, so directly opposed to his own, it was in that spirit of genuine kindness and true toleration, which marked that justice and generosity of his mind, that had raised him high in the scale of virtue and intellect, above the prejudices of a drunken or bigoted population) "and thus knowing our landlord," said Mr. Stafford, "and being quite sure of finding, in a good title and a reasonable rent, and in the well known virtue of the family with whom we deal, a perfect and satisfactory security, that our children after us shall enjoy the full benefit of our improvements when they go to renew their lease, I shall now begin to plant and build upon this farm; and should you see it in a few years hence, you will find its appearance very considerably altered." And here we shall merely say to the honourable Fishmongers of

London, (who we believe are liberal Whigs) in reference to the conduct of this Tory Lord, (if indeed they have not already adopted his policy) "Go you and do likewise." A few remarks however are indispensably necessary, in reference to a much farther extension of liberal government to the farmers of Derry, than is at all called for by the different circumstances of Roscommon; and this is the more necessary for English proprietors, as it cannot be expected that they should be quite so well acquainted with the local peculiarities of Ireland, as those who have been born in the country, and who, for more than half a century, have been brought into painful contact with its sufferings and its crimes. Roscommon then, in its *civil* circumstances, differs very materially from Derry. First, because it is not a manufacturing county, in the same sense in which Derry has always been. Secondly, because the working classes in that feeding and agricultural district, have always lived much lower, and been much more deeply degraded, than the manufacturing population of Derry. And thirdly, because the same *grinding system* could not be extended to Derry, without verging upon a final extinction of its trade, and a total extinction of the Protestant population, through the *banishment* and *degradation* which it would infallibly impose upon an industrious and spirited people, who will never submit to be treated like the beasts of the field (as are the peasantry of Roscommon) so long as they can command a guinea to meet the expenses of their emigration to a better country. We are far from saying that it was owing to any wilfully corrupt principle, on the part of this respectable company, that the various Protestant self banishments from this property, hereafter noticed, were, *most happily for the banished Protestants* themselves, forced upon them by a deficiency of profitable labour; and still less that the cruel and selfish policy of England, which has followed Irish manufactures with the cold and imperishable hate of a family murderer, had any share in such obvious misfortunes. No: the large sums of money there expended in a certain class of im-

provements, seem to indicate, that in the policy adopted for the government of this property, the company selected such principles, as they conceived were best calculated to combine the interests of this country with their own. But if, on a cool and attentive consideration of the *effects* of their system, they shall find the seeds of a slow but *certain decay*, enclosed, like a *poisoned* nucleus, within it, they will (supposing the *principle* of their government to be in error,) immediately change this principle; and for their own sake, and for the sake of those who might come under the weight of a stupendous building, when *falling through decay*, adopt such measures, for the revival of the linen trade, and for the establishment of such other branches of manufacture (whether of malt, glass, vitriol, wool or silk, for all of which there is a home consumption) as shall, in connection with the reclaiming of waste lands, and generous encouragements to the cultivators of their soil, not only save their property from the influences of a gradually consuming policy, but raise it and their tenantry together, to the most high and palmy state of perfection, of which they are capable under existing laws.

Here are the views which we conscientiously take of the ends to which these two opposite systems of government naturally lead, in such a country as Ireland; and whether these views would derive irresistible confirmation from a true and faithful comparison of the state of that class of the Protestant population, which live under the shade of a generous and protecting policy, and in the enjoyment of an established manufacture (as on Lord Donegal's Belfast estate) with that of their brethren, who have neither long leases and low rents, nor yet trade and manufactures to enable them to pay high rents (which the Ulster tenantry have been always able to do when their trade flourished) let those who, like us, have been well acquainted with that province for the last forty years, come forward and pronounce.

From the valuable buldings that we saw on the Fishermonger's estate, nothing can be more evident than that the



present and recent members of the company, have applied themselves with becoming zeal to the improvement of the manor in that particular department. And hence we indulge a hope, that, in proportion as their knowledge of Ireland increases, they will adopt such measures for the encouragement of agriculture and *manufactures* in Walworth, as may lead other English companies to an imitation of their example; assured, that if these companies *unite* in the effectual working of such a system, they will give the most powerful impulse to the improvement of their estates, and to the whole Protestant interest of the county of Derry, that these have received since the Act of Union laid the foundation of that absentee system, by which Ireland has been deprived of one half of the income of her soil, and the benefit of her natural resources. But while we make this remark, we are also perfectly aware, that to wealthy English companies, their Irish properties (we speak hypothetically) *may* be a very *minor* object, in comparison of the triumph of English policy over Irish manufactures; and also that the prosperity of the Protestant interest on such properties, *may* not be a feather in the scale. To all of this, supposing it to be true, (which we hope it is not) we shall only say, "it is well for you, gentlemen, that English ascendancy, in connection with the free Protestant institutions of Great Britain, have raised you to so high a pinnacle in the scale of wealth, as that you can now look down upon your *step-ladder* (the Irish Protestant interest) with sovereign contempt. But although, England, thy "merchants are princes," as those of Tyre formerly were, be not lifted up too high in thy imaginations; as the footstool which thou now kickest from thee with contempt, may yet be wanted; cast it not therefore away, ye Nebuchadnezzars, in the perfection of your pride, but rather keep it clean and in good order among the furniture of your households, so shall it prove useful to you, should a *press of company* come round; but know that if you reject this honest British oak, from the dry and healthful station in which it has been always kept clean and polished in your

Irish houses, it will immediately decline in quality and beauty, as it was never intended, under the crown of England, to be banished (as it now is by the circumstances of Ireland) to a distant clime, or handed over to grooms and lacqueys, as an article of furniture fit only for stable service, for the old women in a harvest field, or finally, in the progress of its *elevation*, for the services of a hen wife in a cockloft.

Among the buildings and other improvements adverted to above, (and which are said to have cost the company £50,000) the following may be regarded as the principal. The village of Ballykelly, two large and handsome meeting houses for dissenting congregations, two dispensaries, a grain market, a most respectable house and all necessary appendages for the agent; a handsome and rather splendid school house, (and in Ballykelly we would particularly notice the neat cottages erected for the accommodation of tradesmen and labourers, at certainly moderate rents, say about £5 per annum, if the working classes had a sufficient portion of profitable employment to enable them to live there) besides divers good farm houses, built for the farmers and their families who are settled on this property.

One of the gentlemen from whom we received information concerning the circumstances of this manor, observed, that in addition to the noble buildings, just mentioned, the company have made new roads through all parts of the manor, and were also promoting its improvement to a considerable extent, by ditching and draining. This conduct towards a property, in which we suppose they have but a life interest, in point of *generosity*, is almost without a precedent (we speak here of Walworth, as a corporate property, and should we err through ignorance of the *exact powers* and *privileges* of the members of the company, that will not weaken the force of our arguments in favour of a more extended system of improvement, nor invalidate the public and well known facts upon which those arguments are built.) What the company have done in the way of PLANTING (so far as that was visible to the traveller) we have already noticed; not

forgetting what appeared to us to have been strangely omitted, in reference to their mountain ground, which has a bald and offensive aspect, and yet might perhaps be made to produce profitable trees, or found to contain still more valuable minerals. In pursuit of this latter element of a future trade, we could not learn that the company had even procured their mountains to be surveyed by mining engineers; nor yet that they had held out any strong or inviting encouragement to brewers, distillers, glass blowers, proprietors of vitriol works, (so useful in a bleaching country) nor even to the manufacturers of coarse friezes, flannels, stockings, and blankets (so well calculated to give profitable employment to the poor, and for all of which there is a ready sale in the markets of the country) to settle on their estate. Consequently we came to the conclusion (we hope erroneously) that to promote the interests of this manor, by manufactures that would give useful employment to the people, was no part of the policy of the gentlemen by whom this property is now governed. And although we do not presume to know, and much less to arraign, the *motives* which led to the adoption of a manufacture excluding policy; yet as this policy contains within it the nucleus of a deep and consuming injury to the property itself, and through that property to the manufacturing interests of this Protestant county, (many of whose honest artizans have been forced to banish themselves to foreign lands in pursuit of bread) in the name of a long and deeply injured nation we raise our voice of indignation against it, regardless of the source from whence this excluding system has proceeded, whether of ignorance, or accident, or *design*.

During the time that the buildings of Ballykelly were in progress, the labourers and artizans then living in the manor, were usefully and profitably employed; but soon after those buildings were finished (as a gentleman living on the estate informed us) a number of able bodied Protestant artizans, born in the manor, finding that the place of their nativity presented them with no better prospect



than that of famine and a chance day's work, very prudently banished themselves to America before their last guinea was expended; and these honest artizans are now enjoying the fruits of their wisdom and foresight, in a land where labour and the useful arts are respected, and where, we trust, they and their posterity shall long enjoy the rewards which are justly due to industry and virtue.

But in addition to the manufactures, which should receive prompt and effectual encouragement in this manor, there is another improvement of the utmost importance to the interests of the property, and to the poor of that district, that ought not to be omitted.

Along the banks of Lough Foyle there is a flat and muddy shore, capable of being rendered excellent land, perhaps some of the best in the whole manor. About 6000 acres of this flat could be reclaimed, which would not only give employment to the poor on this estate, but amply repay the proprietors for their outlay, by a large addition to their territory; for it is a well known fact in the agricultural history of this coast, that no such lands are to be found in the north-west district, as those alluvial soils which evince their origin, by the various marine productions which the waters have lodged there. Let those who doubt this fact, enquire into the produce of a small tract of alluvial soil in the possession of Mr. Ogilby, of Ardnargle; in this county, and they will find that his challenge to the two great farming societies of the North, to compete with him in the *quantity* and *quality* of a certain green crop (we believe mangel wurzel) produced from this alluvial soil, was never accepted! The reclaiming of this land would therefore be an important addition to the value of this manor.

We cannot say much about the parish church here, (as we were never in it) nor concerning any other buildings on this property, besides those which we have already noticed. We heard, however, from a gentleman in the neighbourhood, that the incumbent draws a noble income from the parish under the tithe composition act, we believe, £1000 a

year, besides a capital glebe house for the resident clergyman, and 250 acres of prime glebe land, worth about £500 per annum more ! This is certainly a very pretty income in such a country as Ireland, for the performance of duties which cost the incumbent £75 a year ; and hence we might, without any great abuse of travelling privilege, place this sinecure, with other flesh pots picked from the bare bones of Egypt, among those Episcopal Edens or scenes of Mahomedan pleasure, for which the church of this oppressed country yields only in her pretensions to the more honestly acknowledged sensuality of the Turkish court and creed.

With the exception of the mountainous parts of this parish, the residue is said to be inhabited by an industrious and orderly population, mostly protestant dissenters, these latter being as seven to ten of the inhabitants, two parts Roman Catholic, and *one only* of the Established Church ! So then nine parts out of ten of these people, must pay tithes to this rich shepherd, although they do not receive so much from him in return, as a cup of cold water, a penny in their poor box, or even the words "God bless you," when, the wind blowing through a crevice in their old windows, they fall a sneezing.

To bring the manor of Walworth to the perfection of which it is capable, a great deal more must be done. Much land must be reclaimed ; much employment found for the working people ; much encouragement given to the establishment of domestic manufactures. Rents must be moderate ; and although we do not say that a landlord should not place a *small* rent charge (and it should be very small indeed) upon a house which he himself had built upon a *small* farm, over and above a very moderate rent for that farm ; yet in reference to large farms we never saw this practice pursued in Ireland. It is not the system of the generous and extensive landlords of the country (and still less where the tenant or his family had built and planted at their own expense,) and in reference to the tenant who has to raise his rent from the culture of the soil, it relishes so

much of a grinding policy, that every generous proprietor who participates in the prosperity of his people, and feels the security which his property derives from their growing wealth, will instantly renounce it.

We understand this manor extends along the eastern shore of Lough Foyle (from its north-east boundary, within a short distance of Newtownlimavady) south-west to the village of Muff, in its immediate neighbourhood. The public road from Newtownlimavady to the city of Derry, passes through it, and presents to the traveller an extremely pleasant drive in the summer season. Ballykelly, the village already noticed, is, we believe, the usual post-town to the inhabitants of this manor.

#### THE LONDON GROCERS' ESTATE.

We visited this estate (with a letter of introduction) when the respectable gentleman who discharges the duties of the agency, happened to be absent; and consequently we neither know the extent of the property, nor the resources of the soil. The rents are, no doubt, proportioned to the qualities and other circumstances of each farm, and probably graduate between one and three pounds per acre. That of the Templemoyle seminary, described in the next article, was represented to us as *poor land*, and let on that account to the North-west Farming Society for the first-mentioned rent (the measurement being that of the Conyngham acre,) while the farm of Bessbrook, containing sixty acres (rented by a Mr. M'Causland) being a good corn soil, brought two guineas per acre, which is a pretty high rent in the farm way, as produce now sells in the Irish market.

We were informed by a tenant on this estate, that it is the *present* policy of the company not to give leases of any kind, but to keep the tenants in a state of absolute dependence upon their will! Can this be true? Or do those gentlemen know so little of Ireland, as to imagine that the improvement of their property will be advanced under such circumstances? In reference to new and unknown tenants



this may be a prudent policy; but when the stability of a tenant has been ascertained by a sufficient period of probation, would it not be wiser to give him such a title as would induce him to expend a part of the profits of his industry in the improvement of his farm, as he would not be likely to do so to any considerable extent, without a sure title?

Without some such security as this, no prudent tenant will expend a single guinea on his farm, that is not absolutely indispensable to the production of *an immediate profit*. Generally speaking, such a tenant will build as little as he can, plant as little as he can, make no good permanent fences, no handsome avenues; nothing, in short, that has not a reference to an immediate profit; and consequently all that is calculated to enrich and beautify his farm, will be excluded on a principle of self-defence.

For our own part, we do not admire this vestige of the old feudal system; feeling, as we do, that an English tenant ought not, in these days of light and liberty, to be the mere villain or vassal of his landlord! We think such a policy is as prejudicial to the landlord, as it is degrading to the tenant; and it savours so much of an anti-British principle of slavery (for an abject dependence upon the will of another is nothing less) that we think it ought not to be adopted by any company of proprietors calling themselves British free-men; more particularly as it is evident to common sense that the interests of landlord and tenant (like those of the King and his people) are bound up together; and that whatever promotes the prosperity of the one, promotes the security of the other.

A brick work, and a manufactory of tiles and coarse pottery-ware, have been established by the company on the road between Derry and Newtownlimavady; and although the crocks and pans were not glazed, like goods of the same kind in Staffordshire, the conductor informed us they were in good demand, and sold at very nearly the same prices as those of England.

THE TEMPLEMOYLE AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL, AND  
NORTH-WEST FARMING SOCIETY.

The seminary at the head of this article was established at Templemoyle, near the village of Muff, on the London Grocers' estate in this county, in the year 1826, by certain noblemen and gentlemen of the north-west district, whose names may be seen in a printed list in the reports of this school, published in a number of the Magazine of the North-west Farming Society; a work that we would strongly recommend to the notice and attention of the landed interest of Ireland.

It was commenced by the purchase of shares of £25 each, in the nature of a joint-stock company, each subscriber having purchased the number of shares attached to his name in the printed list, making a total (with those that have been since added) of 110 shares, procured and paid for. In addition to this, the Grocers' Company paid one half of the building expenses, amounting to £1,200; the Irish Peasantry Society of London gave £200, the Irish Society of London, £100, and the Fishmongers' Company have since contributed another, towards the building expenses of this most useful establishment.

Thus was commenced that Irish agricultural school, which now forms a precedent for the whole kingdom; and of which it is said there are but two more in Europe; one in Switzerland, and the other, we believe, in Prussia.

For this institution the Society rent 120 Conyngham acres of a very indifferent soil, from the Grocers' Company; and for this farm they pay £121 per annum.

The original plan was intended to embrace two schools, one classical and agricultural, for the higher classes of society; the other on a low scale of expense (say £10 per annum, for board, washing, lodging, books, and instruction) for the sons of practical farmers, on a useful system of *practical* agriculture (and to this, in all probability, will be added, as undoubtedly it ought when the funds can afford it, the

theory and practice of agricultural chemistry, and botany, but particularly the former.) The first of these schools has not succeeded, nor is that material (for there is no want of such schools in Ireland); but the latter is doing well, and will prove eminently useful to the most enlightened province of that country.

There were forty-three pupils in the house when we visited this institution in 1830; and it is capable of accommodating 110, that is, one pupil for each share subscribed.

Hitherto we have been indebted to Scotland and England for stewards and gardeners; but although this institution was not quite four years open at the period of our visit, it had even then sent out five young men well qualified to fill the station of land steward; six more were nearly ready at that time; and many pupils, well qualified to instruct their parents in agriculture, had returned home.

In 1828, a public examination of the pupils in Arithmetic, Euclid, Trigonometry, the elements of Algebra, and Agricultural Chemistry, took place in presence of the Committee of the North-west Farming Society, and terminated with equal honour to the masters and pupils of the school. With the progress of the school, the system of education appears to have been extended; for in going through the reports we find references to the theory and practice of land-surveying, together with an accurate knowledge of the construction of maps (see the printed account of the system in its advanced state in the society's reports, from which we take the liberty of extracting the following remarks.) "These," (the useful knowledge and habits of regularity acquired in the school and on the farm) "are some of the advantages which this infant establishment bestows; but its importance and its value are connected with its effects in *time to come*; namely, from a number of farmers spread over the surface of the country, exhibiting, by their example, the blessings derived from an early and useful education, industrious habits, and correct morality—diffusing also, where they may chance to settle, a knowledge of the most approved modes of agri-



culture, emulation in its pursuit, and a taste for system, regularity, and neatness, in its various departments.”\*

\* We beg here to produce one remarkable example of the advantages resulting from a system of education, in practical agriculture and mechanics combined, (and consequently on a scale somewhat more extended in the *practical* department, and in this instance evidently more useful, than even that very excellent system of education at Templemoyle, from which mechanics are excluded) that came within our own knowledge about thirty years since, as it places the benefits resulting from early habits of industry and useful learning in a striking point of view.

A young and able bodied man of the name of Pellet, a native of the County of Galway, (descended from an industrious family of French Protestants) had been brought up by his elder brother, who rents a small farm in the County of Roscommon from Lord Crofton, to the twofold trade of a farmer and coarse linen weaver. If our impression of this young man's education be correct, he was compelled by his brother to cut down the tree from which the plough was made, to make that plough under proper instruction, and then to hold it in the cultivation of the soil. In like manner to manufacture the loom from the tree which he had felled, to place that loom upon its base, to fix the reed and geers in their proper places, to wind the warp of his forthcoming piece, to put that warp through the reed and geers, and then to weave and prepare his piece for market. Now this was a *practical* system of education in agriculture and mechanics with a witness. We need hardly offer any comment upon the utility of such a system of education for a working man in any country ; but particularly in that of America, to which this individual removed soon after his apprenticeship expired. When ready to depart, he obtained, through his character and connections, such respectable introductions to the city of Philadelphia (where he landed with one guinea in his pocket) as soon procured for him a confidential employment in the establishment of a merchant in that city. Having served this merchant faithfully for a few years, he received his daughter in marriage, and with her portion, and what he had saved during the period of his servitude, he purchased a plantation in the Province of Pennsylvania, commenced the linen business, and has long been the proprietor of a good trade and a respectable estate in that country. Now here is something like a *satisfactory* illustration of the benefits to be expected (at least in some instances) from a Templemoyle system of education, rendered still more eminently useful, by embracing such branches of practical mechanics as are peculiarly well adapted to improve the circumstances of a farmer in such a manufacturing country as America, or even in that of the North of Ireland, where this school exists ; and we hope it will operate as a stimulus to the young men who are now in a course of education there, to acquire all the knowledge with which their favourable opportunities supply them at that place ; remembering that a fortune *in* a man or a woman, is much better than a fortune *with* them (like a pound of manure *in* land, which is better than two pounds *on* it,) the one may perish by many accidents—the other can only perish with themselves.

Having now given the reader a concise view of the origin and progress of this valuable institution, we beg permission, before we conclude, to advert to the eminent service that has been rendered, generally, to the agricultural and manufacturing interests of this part of Ireland, by the exertions of the North-west Farming Society; than which a more useful and efficient association for the advancement of industry, did not, we believe, exist in that country, at the period of our visit. And we would again respectfully recommend the gentlemen of other districts, who have not yet conferred upon their country the inestimable benefit of agricultural schools, to procure and read over with attention, the reports of this society since the agricultural school at Templemoyle was first opened.

In these reports they will find premiums for cheese, butter, Irish leghorn hats, and woollen cloths, the native produce of the district; and for these latter manufactured articles, as well as for flax, green crops, and other produce in a state of nature, there have been divers successful candidates.

The stimulating influence of public admiration and praise upon that noble ambition to excel, which has been wisely implanted in our nature (and to which the premium that fixes and rewards the distinction, is the mere instrument of gratification) has not been resorted to in vain by the North-west Farming Society, who have tried and found it to be a powerful spring in working the machine of public improvement, notwithstanding all which philosophers have said, and said truly, about the proud and selfish character of the passion.—But thus it is

“That self and social work the scheme  
Of nature’s universal frame.”

and hence a Miss Boake, a Miss Gallagher, and others, animated by this noble passion, worked hard and long in the straw, until they bore away in triumph, the laurels conferred by this society upon the best manufacturers of hats and bonnets. Other ladies, animated by the same useful

propensity, kept squeezing and pressing their curd until they brought forth cheese of prime quality; and in process of time, if the machine be kept steadily working, the North-west Farming Society will have all the patriotic ladies in the country zealously embarked in the propagation and improvement of their own native productions. This generous, and we hope rapidly increasing passion, was not, however, limited to the ladies and their works—it extended to the woollen manufacture (the report before us does not say whether fine or coarse); and in this department, a Mr. M'Cutchan, and a Mr. Huey, (gentlemen we suppose in trade) bore away the prize from all competitors. Now, although these various branches of industry are strictly connected with the soil; and, as such, are legitimate objects of encouragement; still we believe every Irish farming society has not embraced them within the range of its premiums, although they have bestowed much attention upon the improvement of their stock and husbandry, leaving the manufactures and peasantry of the country as they found them—in a dying state!

It is because we perceive the proofs of a fostering wing of generous and patriotic encouragement, extended to every branch of manufacture arising from the Irish soil (and calculated to give useful employment to the people), in the Reports of the labours of the North-west Farming Society now before us, that we earnestly recommend the magazine of that society to the careful perusal of every other Irish association, possessing an honest wish to render the resources of their country tributary to her prosperity, and to the profitable employment of her numerous poor.

In the finer departments of the woollen manufacture, we fear the North-west Society will not succeed (although they deserve it) and we would, therefore, strongly recommend them to *confine* their attention to the ratteen, frieze, blanket-ing, and other coarse branches, calculated by their strength and cheapness for general consumption. The English have got a monopoly of the fine woollen trade; and by their skill



and capital they will keep us out of that market, which we once almost exclusively occupied, and of which they contrived to defraud us by their unjust and partial laws. The attempt, however, may be considered by some, worth making; but since the failure of the Kilkenny and Celbridge factories, where cloths of the finer fabrics were brought as nearly as possible to the perfection of the Yorkshire stile, we have lost all hope of recovering any portion of that trade in the present political circumstances of Ireland. Had we indeed a resident proprietary, all equally attentive as the North-west Farming Society, to the improvement of their country, then indeed a something might be done even in the fine woollen trade; but as, without a domestic parliament, (or some effectual substitute for it, if such can be,) the absentee system will continue to spread its ravages, we fear the labours of the North-west Society, unless in the extremely coarse branches of the woollen trade, will soon terminate (like the Kilkenny and Kildare experiments) in a non est inventus—no where to be found.

We now bid farewell to this invaluable society. May its proceedings continue to be guided by REASON, and its labours crowned with prosperity and peace. May every similar institution follow its example. And with ardent wishes for the prosperity of every patriotic association, and for the individual happiness of every Irishman, who thus devotes himself to the service of his country in works of practical improvement, we remain, most sincerely and affectionately, &c.

THE AUTHOR.

#### CITY OF LONDONDERRY.

Having entered the city of Londonderry and walked over it, we were charmed with its picturesque position, on a site beautifully elevated above the river Foyle, which forms a capacious sheet of water at that place, surmounted by a wooden bridge, which, in reference to the toll imposed upon passengers, is so shamefully expensive, that (like eighteen

pence for a tumbler of rum punch in London) when once paid it will never be forgotten. This bar to free access (so evidently prejudicial to the interests of the city) should be removed at once by the firm but peaceful arm of the law. The corporation should be relieved of its excessive tolls, by the erection of a free stone bridge at the public expense, as a permanent substitute for that *wooden communication*, where a hackney chaise, for once passing and repassing, must pay the *moderate* tax of three shillings; and even *the foot passenger*, if his business should conduct him one hundred times between those parts of the town, with which the bridge is his only medium of communication, must pay one hundred pence for the pleasure which he thus enjoys! It is pretty plain therefore, that this honest corporation is no respecter of persons; and that in its administration of *justice* it spares neither horse nor foot. And as it knows no distinction of *persons*, neither does it understand any distinction of *times*. If you pay turnpike at any gate on the King's high road in Ireland, you may pass and repass fifty times through the same gate on the same day, without any farther expense; but the corporation of Derry do not understand this vulgar consideration of *days* and *times*; and therefore, to save trouble and cut short all accounts, they make one invariable rule, from which they never permit themselves to depart, and that is, that so often as you want their bridge, they want your money, and if you do not like their prices you need not *touch* their goods. The point being thus settled, and all farther discussion with the toll-man about the various times of day when you paid this tax before, being found useless, you push your hand once more into your threadbare pocket, pull out your toll, present it with a sour face to the collector, and then go grumbling over the bridge.

As to the ancient history of this *maiden* city; its spirited resistance of James II., (whose system of RELIGIOUS LIBERTY is now British law,) its gallantry in a protracted siege; the unrivalled heroism of its "prentice boys," and

the magnanimity of governor Walker, "whose praise is in all the churches;" they are all so well known and so well celebrated in Derry, as to be incapable of deriving any auxiliary fame from "vain repetition."

The scenery of the city being of a more peaceful character than its siege, has been less noticed; but the validity of its claims to distinction in the picturesque of Irish towns, is not the less certain; for we know of no town in Ireland of the same dimensions, that commands the same number of picturesque views, in the same compact form.

One or two of these rich views of the Foyle, and of the seats and scenery beyond it, are visible in your passage through the streets of the city; and from a position on the ramparts (which form a delightful *promenade* around the town,) near governor Walker's statue, and within five minutes walk of the very centre of the city, there is as splendid a view of lawn and water to the distant mountains, with villas sparkling in the space, as any eye delighting in the sublime and beautiful of art and nature need covet to enjoy.

This city has the advantage of divers useful institutions, and a few public buildings of decent appearance; but it is neither large nor splendid; and appears much more remarkable for its attention to business than for its devotion to amusements, with which many towns of inferior note are more liberally supplied. There are two weekly papers published here, one of which, called "The Sentinel," (edited by Mr. Wm. Wallen, a very worthy inhabitant of this town,) is the principal journal of the district, and as such, is received and supported by almost all the leading gentlemen in the counties of Derry and Donegal. But of the few useful institutions of which this little city may boast, there is none perhaps that has rendered more general service to the inhabitants, or done more credit to the corporation, than the excellent and well regulated markets which are there established. There is scarcely any thing necessary for the supply of a gentleman's table that cannot be procured here at the proper season; and in this particular (if a good deed



can atone for an evil one) the corporation have made valuable compensation to the citizens of Derry for the heavy exactions of their bridge.

Derry is probably the third town of trade in the province of Ulster; Belfast, the first; and Newry, we believe, the second. These are the three principal sea port-towns in the province of Ulster; and it is a somewhat singular feature in their history, that Belfast, which is the youngest, and was the last to make its appearance in the world as a town of *trade*, is now the commercial capital of the province; thus fulfilling that scriptural prediction, "the last shall be first, and the first last."

Before we left Derry, we heard of an improvement intended to render service to the shipping interest of the city, that was about to be erected on the western bank of the river Foyle, by Messrs. P. Skipton and Co., respectable merchants of that town. It is called a patent slip, intended for the accommodation of vessels, when undergoing repairs preparatory to a voyage. It is said to be in general use both in England and Scotland, but had not been attempted here, until the Messrs. Skipton paid a considerable sum to the patentee, (*merely because they reside in Ireland!*) for permission to compete with the proprietors of similar establishments in the sister countries. So much then for the liberality with which Ireland is treated by those countries, in every transaction in which her commerce is concerned, notwithstanding that she has the name (but it is the name only) of being an integral part of that United Kingdom, in which there was nothing to be known, after the act of Union, but equal and impartial justice!

## THE FARM.

(With a critique upon the nomenclature of our seats.)

This is the seat of Sir Robert Ferguson, Bart. M. P. for the city of Londonderry; and in introducing it to the notice of our readers, we cannot but express a wish that the names by which Irish seats are distinguished, would be found, upon examination, to bear *some relation* to the natural history of each place, its local position, the prospect which it commands, the family which founded it, the transactions which distinguished it, or even to the ancient name of the parish or town land in which it stands; since it sometimes happens that very beautiful productions of the finger of art and nature in this country, are not only destitute of any such reference or connection, but give the lie direct to their own topographical distinctions, notwithstanding these are as open and perview to the eye of the passing stranger as to that of a civil engineer, a landscape gardener, or even the *every day* observation of the inhabitant of a hundred moons. Let us advert, from memory, to a few examples of the blunders of this kind that are so frequently to be met with in Ireland (and perhaps in England also, if we were equally well acquainted with its seats.) And first, we shall notice *Castle-hill*, *Fruit-hill*, and *Prospect-hill*, as names *most correct and appropriate* for seats standing near the bottom of a *valley*! those of Mount Prospect and Mount Vernon, for seats (no matter how beautiful when situated on a *plain*,) in which there is neither hill nor MOUNT to interrupt the deathlike reign of a tame level! That of Woodview, to a residence which has no wood in prospect! Harmony-hall, where there may be much harmony or little, but certainly no Hall of that antique castle splendor that would justify the assumption of this name, (thus *forcing* upon the imagination, which is ready enough to derive amusement from these swelling titles, that low and vulgar proverb, though sharp enough, "every man thinks his own crow the whitest,") besides various other ridiculous

cognomens, for which you would in vain endeavour to discover an analogy between the name and the thing intended to be described.\*

The origin of a name so *simple*, for a seat standing so well over the river Foyle, and commanding such a view of Londonderry as "The Farm" does, requires some explanation; and this explanation we shall give as we received it from a gentleman, a native of Derry, who professed to have an intimate acquaintance with the circumstances out of which the title arose.

"The first possessor of this farm in the Ferguson family," said our informant, "was Dr. Ferguson, grandfather of the present proprietor (and a practising physician in the town of Derry), who held it, perhaps with a view to his future residence when he should retire from practice, but more immediately for the accommodation, which, as a farm, it afforded to his town establishment; and having occupied it in this capacity for many years, it was very naturally designated 'the farm,' by the family." Hence, if the Doctor were going out there, he would probably say, "I am going to the farm;" "if I am wanted, you will find me at the farm," &c. and this, so long as it remained in the exclusive capacity of a farm to the town establishment, was very well; but when built on, planted, improved, and rendered a most respectable residence, this was no longer a proper title, and should have been made to yield to a name more perfectly cor-

\* In reference to the titles of "Hall," "Harmony-hall," &c., (which have been applied to edifices of *very moderate dimensions, very modern taste, and pure from the slightest vestige of the ancient gothic architecture*) we beg to observe, that the Halls in our ancient castles, being celebrated in history as LARGE AND DISTINGUISHED APARTMENTS, the scene of the Baron's armour and of his family festivities, where he and his noble guests, after the feast of hospitality, enjoyed the song of the bard and the music of the minstrel, celebrating the achievements of warriors and the softer victories of love; the title, properly bestowed upon such *apartments*, cannot be applied without *obvious absurdity* to a plain country villa, having a hall of simple appearance, unappropriated to festive exercises, of very limited dimensions, and whose exclusive office, is that of opening a free communication to the other apartments of the building.



responding with its new and regenerated character, and more exalted destination. In this capacity, even "Farm-lodge," (though much beneath the legitimate claims of the country seat of the late chief magistrate, and now member for the city of Derry,) would have been a *slight improvement*, as would also Derry Lodge, Landscape Lodge, Mount Ferguson, Mount Prospect, Foyle View, Town View, Derry View, and many other names that would bear some relation to the position, prospect, and other associations of the place, and certainly would be more in harmony with its character, as a seat nobly elevated above the Foyle, and enjoying a fine prospect of the city, and as the residence of a gentleman closely connected with its interests, than that of a cognomen common to every farm in the country; and which, obstinately and illegitimately to retain, in violation of all the laws of language, looks like an unjustifiable trespass upon the rights of the honest farmers, who are justly jealous of their *titles*; to say nothing of the insult which it offers to the compilers of our dictionaries, who have laboured in vain to draw lines of demarkation between *chateaus*, castles, cottages, parishes, parks and paddocks, estates, demesnes and farms, if their fences are thus to be thrown down, at the will and pleasure of every gentleman who may choose to set law and order at defiance!

We have a very high respect, both for the public character and private virtues of the proprietor of this seat, (for we are not ignorant how deeply the invaluable seminary at Temple Moyle, and we believe other patriotic institutions in the North-west district, are indebted for their success to his exertions,) but no tribute of praise which may be justly due to him on these grounds, shall make us swerve from that strict line of impartiality which we wish to observe, on every subject that affects either the honour or the accuracy of our country. He must therefore excuse us, if we have made a little free with his farm hobby; as a *reference* to these corruptions of reason may contribute, with other causes, to direct the attention of the country to that

just and natural connection between NAME and THING, which should never be lost sight of in the nomenclature of our seats, as the *primitive history* of NAMES and THINGS abundantly evinces; in proof of which we refer to the period of creation, when man had neither shame nor sin; and consequently had neither a proud heart nor a blind understanding to corrupt or to befool his titles.

Having now discharged our duty to this prevalent abuse, we shall proceed to the

#### POSITION AND PROSPECT OF "THE FARM,"

(If we must so denominate it.)

The Farm is situated on the shore road, which opens a direct communication from the city of Londonderry, by the water edge, towards the village of Muff, (not that already noticed near Templemoyle, in the county of Derry, but a village of the same name in the county of Donegal.) To the traveller on this road, the house, lawn, and plantations, proudly elevated above the river, develope their congregated beauties in a front view; and being situated within a short drive or pleasant walk of two English miles from the city, the Farm unites its charms with those of other distinguished seats and public buildings, to regale the eye of the traveller, and to constitute the shore road an interesting promenade to the citizens of Derry.

There are other approaches to the city of Derry by no means destitute of interest; more particularly that from Newtownlimavady, which passes through the estates of two of the London companies already noticed; but whatever claims these roads and properties may have to the attention of the patriot and political economist, whose researches are directed to the great and paramount purpose of national improvement; in reference to the less useful, but more amusing department of the picturesque, no road in the neighbourhood of Derry can compete with that which opens a communication between the city and the Farm. As a walk or drive from the town it stands pre-eminent; the

broad waters of the river Foyle, with the various vessels which pass and repass to the city of Derry, being situated on the right; a country gently elevated, richly cultivated, and decorated with public buildings and picturesque villas, on the left; the road over which you are passing, smooth and in good order, accommodated with a neat foot path for pedestrians, and enlivened with numerous vehicles and passengers (among which latter the pretty figures and dresses of the country belles, with their ribbands and flounces floating in the breeze, might communicate a solitary ray of sunshine even to the stoic's eye) and the whole scenery of the city and neighbouring country in this direction, being grouped in a valley thus richly embellished, watered by the Foyle, and enclosed by the lofty mountains of Donegal and Derry, altogether constitute this rural promenade so pleasing and picturesque, as to cover the timid cheek of Description with a blush of conscious incompetency, when called by her country to the difficult task of imbuing the imagination of her reader with a correct resemblance of the beauties of the living scene.

These are the objects which grace the communication between Derry and the Farm, and which constitute the principal features of the rich and picturesque landscape comprehended in the prospect from this seat. There is one view, however, which may be considered as more peculiarly *its own*. The larger or more open country which we have just attempted to describe, may be seen to equal or superior advantage from the loftier lands above the house, and from other elevated positions in the neighbourhood of the river; but that which THE ATTIC OF THE HOUSE commands, over the crystal bosom of the Foyle, to the city of Derry, standing on a noble hill, is peculiarly *its own*. In a lofty and open prospect from a field in the demesne, considerably elevated above the house, (and which, as being devoted to the exercise of the troops of the garrison, should be called "the parade,") you see a large tract of country before you, extending to the mountains; but in the view



from the attic of the house, the eye passing through a close defile over the crystal surface of the Foyle, to the rich cluster of beauties in THE CITY SCENE, grouped upon a noble hill which terminates the prospect; and fastened upon this scene with irresistible force by the lofty enclosures of the defile through which the eye passes, and which exclude all distant and distracting objects, the rush of picturesque beauty upon the organ of vision in this single scene is so perfectly overwhelming, that the hand would be in danger of involuntarily extending itself to burn the canvas that would attempt to represent it; while the utmost effort of Description, in her highest state of wealth, being utterly incompetent to do it justice; she would be seen sitting down upon the bank of the river in a posture of despair, and yielding with reluctant pride the palm of victory to nature!

#### DOMESTIC IMPROVEMENTS.

Descending from the parade to the public road, you enter through the gate to the house over a neatly sanded walk, through a tolerably dense plantation of beech, fir, and oak, planted about thirty years since; and which, considering the comparative exposure of this tract of country to winds unfavourable to the growth of timber, have made a tolerably good progress. To high perfection they certainly have not arrived, and probably never will; but still as they are both ornamental and valuable, and in connexion with the more extended and more lightly sporting plantations upon the elevated lands above them, contribute to enrich and beautify the demesne, and to constitute this seat a more eminently interesting feature in the scenery of the river and of the shore road to Muff, than would have been possible had the place been destitute of wood; the patriot who surveys his country for the valuable purpose of promoting its internal improvement, and drawing the attention of an opulent people to its history, will not forget to produce this proof to the owners of the surrounding mountains, that oak will grow in certain aspects in the region of Lough Foyle (and

in the argillaceous soils of Lough Neagh, they have arrived to a perfection fit for building ships of war), and consequently that even the mountain districts (exclusively of their mineral wealth, which we have yet to learn) might be made to produce a very different income to the purchasers of land here, from that which they now produce to the proprietors in their wild and unplanted state.

Having left this little dense plantation behind you in your approach to the house, the prospect opens upon the left, to the hill already noticed as the parade, surmounted by a light and extensive screen of ornamental trees the whole way along the summit. Under the shade of this lofty screen, a number of milch cows of the long horned Irish breed were grazing on the surface of the soil, which descends in a glacis towards the house; and had the proprietor felt disposed to have divided that portion of his lawn, by a sunk fence the whole way across the hill, and to have converted the section uniting with the pleasure ground and the approach, into a deer park lightly stocked with those flippant animals, it would, in our humble opinion, have been a very ornamental appendage to his demesne, although certainly not so *profitable* as the use to which it is now appropriated.

#### THE HOUSE, ETC.

The dwelling-house stands at a moderate distance from the road. It approaches towards the form of a square, and is an edifice of respectable appearance, with a noble portico in the Grecian style, and a commodious balcony above it. The apartments, though not extremely large, are very good, and the views from the principal rooms, picturesque and pleasant (as may be inferred from the description already given of the city scene, in the prospect from its attic). That portion of the lawn, which approximates with the house and the approach, may be regarded as the pleasure ground, being decorated with fancy flower knots, accommodated with nicely sanded walks, and taken in connection with the

lofty parade (encircled with a light plantation) and with the house, garden, &c., may be considered as constituting the *tout ensemble* of the home view.

#### SOIL AND MEASUREMENT.

The soil, from the best information we could collect, is composed of a stiff cold clay on a substratum of slaty gravel; and the slaty colour of the sanded walks corresponds with this description of the subsoil. It contains no indications of the existence of mineral wealth that we could learn, and is destitute of lime, the mineral of most value to the farmer; but as a grass farm, it is excellent, and with proper cultivation and manure, produces good crops of barley and oats. Mr. Mc Clintock, the proprietor of a pretty little seat (called Greenhaw) in the neighbourhood of the farm, informed us that wheat of good quality, and a full average crop, has been produced upon *his land*. We made farther enquiry into the capabilities of the soil of this neighbourhood for the production of wheat, and this was the amount of our information, namely, that this section of the country, *generally*, contains a soil not well suited to that heavy grain, although sound wheat may be produced from certain loamy farms; but that the very best which these lands will grow, is less profitable to the miller than the wheat of the southern districts, the husk being much thicker, and consequently the quantity of meal produced from the same weight of grain, much less. The lands of Greenhaw lie lower than those of the farm, and are perhaps more rich and loamy; for upon no other principle can we account for the difference between these farms, as they so closely approximate. In this respect, low lands descending towards the banks of rivers, receive ample compensation in their loam for their loss of prospect. For heavy crops, and feeding heavy stock, they are infinitely superior to the lofty lands above them; and hence for the farmer and heavy grazier, the fat and marrowy soils on the banks of the Boyne, the Slaney, and the Shannon (but particularly in the southern district



of the last river) are by far the most profitable tracts of feeding ground in the whole of Ireland.

Nature, in her admirable economy, has so distributed her benefits, that no single portion of her works is supplied with all; and from no single portion is every benefit excluded. We need not go to the torrid and frigid zones, to shew that the most opposite climates are thus favoured, for the proofs are every where; and among the rest they are found in the lands just noticed. And, in reference to the natural history of these, we may observe, that light hilly lime stone soils are generally sound sheep walks; and in a wet climate, or a wet season in a dry one, are the best corn soils; and yet they would not do for heavy wheat crops, neither would they bring heavy beef cattle to perfection.

The Farm embraces 110 acres of demesne, thus highly cultivated, planted, and improved; but whether the measurement be English, Irish, or Scotch, we did not learn. Its distance from Londonderry, which is the post town to it, we have already noticed.

#### BALLYNAGUARD.

(Query to the Farming Societies—Poem on the Broad Oak—Remarks on the Criminal Laws.)

That respectable feature of the liberties of Londonderry, known by the name of Ballynaguard, constitutes the present residence of Captain John Hart, and at the period of our visit, was the property of his father, the late General Hart, Governor of Londonderry and Culmore, and for many years one of the representatives in parliament for the County of Donegal.

It stands on the line of road already noticed in our description of the Farm, nearly midway between that seat and the village of Muff, in the County of Donegal, and Londonderry is the post town to it. The communication from this city to the seat upon which we have now entered, is, consequently, through the same interesting country as that already noticed in our description of the Farm; but in

addition to the beauties of the Foyle, the Farm, and the other objects already described, the distinguished seats of Broomhall, Brookhall, and Thornhill, enrich the succeeding prospect, upon one side; and a tract of country moderately elevated, and richly cultivated and improved, extends the whole way from the city of Derry to Ballynaguard, upon the other.

The aspect of this seat on entering the demesne (which stands enclosed by a stone wall upon the right, as you approach it from Derry by the shore road) is striking, and in this district of the city is peculiar to itself, as it presents to the eye a fine *wild* prospect of mountain and water, an ancient Danish fort, the ruins of a church, a military fort and village (on a narrow tongue of land, which projects a considerable distance into the river, and with its several buildings, constitutes an interesting object in the front view.) A dwelling-house, which, though not sufficiently elevated to command a view of the city, nevertheless contains apartments, large, lofty, and luminous; and, in connection with a few necessary improvements in plantation and gardening around it, possesses every necessary accommodation for health and pleasure.\* A demesne, with much indeed of the beauty of wild nature in its prospect, but exhibiting very little of the studied formalities of art, although a site for an edifice exists on an elevated position above the river, on which the god of science might have reared an edifice that would have commanded the homage of the country, in addition to a fine and flattering prospect of Londonderry and the intervening landscape, of which the present dwelling-house is totally deprived.

\* According to our information, the ancient church of Culmore (whose ruins are above noticed,) was occupied by the Duke of Berwick's horse regiment, as a stable, during the siege of Derry; and having been completely dismantled, was never since rebuilt. The lands of Ballynaguard were also occupied by a portion of King James' army, it being a formidable position for the prevention of any fleet sailing up the river. The old *military* fort of Culmore, (above noticed) with the adjoining houses, assuming the appearance of a *village*, are said to have been repaired and rendered habitable by the late governor, General Hart.

Thus cheered with a view of Derry, in connection with the river Foyle and the distant mountains, Ballynaguard would have connected with the wild and interesting beauties of its present view, all the charms of that richly decorated city scene, upon which some other seats in this fine district have so largely drawn in favour of their own beauty.

The demesne of Ballynaguard is limited to about 100 Conyngham acres; and yet from its connection with a land and water scene in the front view, extending much beyond the narrow boundaries of its own dominion, the mind receives that kind of impression which is necessarily communicated by the prospect of an open and extensive territory. But such is the power of nature, when she chooses to exert it on the eye and imagination, that the narrow boundaries of individual possession, and the limited works of art, are all forgotten; and the fancy, carried captive by the spacious lake and the distant mountain, and the bold promontory, and the blue horizon, forgets that she is standing upon a limited spot of earth, and that the works of nature upon which she is thus fondly pondering, are not in any other manner an appendage to the property which provides her with this feast, than as the heavens are the property of the astronomer, because by his faculties of intellect and vision, he is enabled to take a peep into the order, harmony, and stupendous magnitude of distant spheres.\*

#### NATURAL HISTORY OF THE SOIL.—IMPROVEMENTS.

The soil of Ballynaguard, (in its primitive state,) was soft, spewy, and retentive of water; but by proper cultivation, and an admirable system of draining (executed by the late John Hart, Esq.) it is now comparatively dry, and eminently

\* Those who are desirous of having a good front view of Ballynaguard, would do well to take their position on the lands of Coolkeiragh, the property of Major Young, on the opposite bank of the river Foyle. It is the only true position for taking a front view, or a good drawing of the house and lawn of Ballynaguard.



productive ; bearing, as the Captain informed us, a rotation of five successive crops without secondary manure ! Towards the south, it is composed of good black earth ; and in the north-west direction, a stratum of clay exists, adapted to the manufacture of pottery-ware, and the useful purpose of a brick walk. That called the Quarter-land, which is situated on the west, is reputed to be a productive gravel soil, though of late years much impoverished by an exhausting succession of crops, usual to the tenants in this country when the termination of their lease approaches. For this evil we know of no remedy, save that of gentlemen stocking and cultivating their own lands ; or otherwise giving such liberal encouragement to tenants of character and capital, by moderate rents, and good leases, as will make it their interest to improve. In any other way, it is vain to expect that the landlord's and the tenant's interests can be brought into a happy and harmonious amalgamation.

Trees thrive very well in the low and sheltered soils of this demesne ; but on the elevated positions, which are too bleak for tender plants, the oak only will grow ; but even this tree will not arrive at the perfection of which it is capable in more favourable soils and climates. The argillaceous soils on the banks of Lough Neagh, are perhaps the best in Ireland, for developing the capabilities of this noble tree. In "Ireland exhibited to England," we gave a specimen, upon indisputable authority, of an oak tree (called the royal oak,) which grew there, that produced to the proprietor, between £100 and £150 ! This tree, then, in the soils which are suited to it, is well worth cultivating. Nor was this the only instance of the enormous growth of oak in the region of Lough Neagh. In addition to the above, we also published the history of another tree (called the broad oak,) which covered an area with its branches, of twenty-two yards in diameter ! These two specimens of Irish oak being so very remarkable, and the former being denominated the royal oak, we appointed the latter to

be his Majesty's prime minister; and in these capacities, made them the subject of two separate rhymes, in the work just noticed, which happened to make its appearance in London, a little after the late Lord Castlereagh had put a period to his existence; and from this event, which communicated a solemn sensation to the public mind in London at that time, the rhyme composed on the prime minister of the royal oak, appears to have derived a tone of *solemnity*, which in other circumstances, would scarcely have influenced the composition of such a subject. This broad oak too, was, in some sort, *emblematic*; for it grew to an ENORMOUS SIZE, and having been chipped with a turf spade and absorbed moisture, it was found *rotten at the heart* when it fell beneath the axe; and hence, in comparison of its service in a sound and healthful state, it was of little value to the owner.

As this work, in its passage through families of various classes of rank and taste, may fall into the hands of some individuals who have a *penchant* for rhyme of a grave description, (we know too well what poetry is, to call doggerel by so high a name,) we shall, as we are on the subject of trees, submit the above stanzas on the broad oak to their inspection. If they have nothing else to recommend them to attention, the moral which they contain, will at least prove the author's apology to the friends of virtue and his country, for their republication.

#### THE BROAD OAK.

And thou who, next in princely rank,  
 With almost royal splendour shone;  
 How was it, e'er thy time was come,  
 The forest heard thy hollow moan?

It seems corruption seiz'd thy heart,  
 Infus'd itself thro' all thy pow'rs—  
 No more thou shadest weary man,  
 Or guards him from descending show'rs.

Slow was the process, yet 'twas sure !  
By which thy pride was prostrate laid ;  
Thy coat of mail was pierced thro',  
And poison issued from the spade.

The poison'd spade was not content  
To rob thee of thy days and hours,  
Thro' every pore the poison went,  
And deeply tainted all thy pow'rs.

Prostrate thou lay — thy crown was fall'n !  
*Inglorious* — on thy *sov'reign's* ground ;  
All nature trembled with the stroke,  
And a deep silence reign'd around.

The trees assembled to behold  
Thy open'd heart in awful plight,  
How deeply *rotten* all was there,  
The forest trembled at the sight !

And oh ! can honour's lofty pride,  
And virtue's more endearing name,  
Be poison'd by a Stygian smoke,  
Deep issuing from a secret flame ?

Alas ! 'tis true — the loftiest tree,  
The purest in the forest's range,  
May sink beneath corruption's pow'r,  
And feel a sad and awful change.

The demon's tool may touch its bark,  
The poison may diffuse its pow'r ;  
The fire, commencing with a spark,  
May lay it prostrate in an hour.

And art thou, tree, to us a sad  
And awful moral in the shade ?  
If so, how deep thy warning voice  
To loftier trees above the glade.

If fell corruption taint our pow'rs,  
If we betray our sacred trust,  
The forest must corrupted fall,  
Or lay us prostrate in the dust.



“ One sickly sheep infects a flock,”  
 One tainted tree corrupts the glade ;  
 The axe must do its office then,  
 ’Tis better than the poison’d spade.

CORRUPTION’S FALL IS VIRTUE’S LIFE,  
 No virtue with its power can dwell,  
 ’Tis better that one tree lie low,  
 Than that a forest burn in h—l.

Emblem of congregated men,  
 As thou, O tree, of ruthless pow’r ;  
 Convey your moral to the fools,  
 Who barb the dart of life’s short hour !

On *gentle gales* your warning voice  
 Convey to Britain’s loftiest soil ;  
 And teach her ministers to spread  
 Their shadow o’er a nation’s toil.

So shall their roots strike deep in peace ;  
 So shall their top towards heav’n ascend —  
 Then may the watchman cut them down,  
 Ripe for a calm and glorious end.

We have already laboured, in many essays, to turn the attention of the landed interest of Ireland to the planting of their mountains ; and have produced some proofs of their adaptation to the growth of oak in divers districts of the Irish coast. This timber also has these peculiar recommendations, that it is of a hardy substance, and even if it should not arrive at full perfection, still being exclusively applicable to boat and ship building of the smaller craft, as also to the manufacture of divers vessels for mercantile and other purposes, to which no other timber is equally well adapted, it will always bring a remunerating price to the mountain planter, whose property, both in value and appearance, must derive considerable augmentation from this equally useful and ornamental species of improvement.

Several very handsome stone and slated houses, two

stories high, have been erected by Captain Hart, upon the lands of Ballynaguard, for the accommodation of his labourers. How these men are otherwise provided for we know not, as we find no reference to their wages or periods of employment in the notes before us. But if indeed these houses may be taken as a fair sample of the system by which they are paid and provided for, we must conclude that "the lines have fallen to them in pleasant places."

The day on which we visited Ballynaguard and Kilderry, happening to prove unfavourable for much walking, we had not a convenient opportunity of either seeing or tasting certain mineral springs which Captain Hart informed us had been discovered on these lands; and consequently we know nothing more of these indications of mineral wealth, than what we have just mentioned.

A reputed signet of King James (the lion of Scotland) and other gems of antiquity, are said to have been found upon the lands of Ballynaguard; and to these have been added many coins and curious stones, which the captain informed us he had collected in his travels. A valuable cup, however, which he intends for the encouragement of agriculture in his own district, appearing to us to be of more value to his country than the stones of India, or even the gold of Peru, we shall copy, verbatim, the words which are inscribed upon it.

"The gift of John Hart, of Ballynaguard, Esq. to the best and most improving farmer of the Londonderry branch of the North-west of Ireland Society, for three successive years."

Upon this inscription, or rather indeed upon the general practice of the farming societies of Ireland, we shall offer the following interrogative remark. Gentlemen, whether is it of more importance to your country, that you should give premiums to *each other*, (you, who cover hundreds, or thousands of acres with your crops and flocks, and who have access to every source of information and improvement) or that you should apply these premiums, in *the larger proportion*, to the improvement of stock, husbandry, manufactures,

education, and cottage economy, among those classes of your tenantry, who occupy under you, between ten and one hundred acres of your soils; and who, as professional farmers, and men of small information, require to be stimulated, by precept, premium, and example, in the march of every species of profitable industry connected with the produce of the soil?

Be it observed, that we are not insensible to the advantages resulting from the improvement of stock, by premium, even amongst gentlemen themselves; because the emulation to excel that is thus promoted, will finally benefit the professional farmer, and every class of society connected with the soil; but still the improvement of those practical men, who may be considered as the *locum tenens* of the landed interest should be the great moral object of all farming associations; and under this conviction it is, that we hail the agricultural seminary at Templemoyle, as one of the best institutions for the rural improvement of Ireland, that has yet been established on the soil of that country.

Neither are we ignorant of the great *moral* benefits to be derived by the working farmers, from those professional and festive associations of the farming interest, which bring the landlord and his tenantry together at a common table. In this particular (and in that of public education, another very important department of rural improvement) the Marquis of Downshire has set a valuable and respectable example to his country; dining at stated periods with his people; and encouraging the children of his district in their literary pursuits, by premiums, public examinations, and periodical feasts, at which we are told Lady Downshire, to her great honour, is frequently seen presiding, with a galaxy of beauty in her circle, that must alight with inspiring power upon every spark of genius that Nature had previously implanted in the bosoms of her little charge. And the merit of these exertions may be considered as deriving additional value from this feature of their character, that they are the spontaneous acts of the Downshire family, having (we



believe) been carried on in divers instances, by them, without deriving any particular assistance from the farming and other valuable associations established in this country for the attainment of similarly useful ends. — Should this act of justice to Lord and Lady Downshire meet their eye (and we might make the same remark in reference to the tribute of just praise bestowed in these pages upon the characters of Lords Farnham and Lorton, as Irish landlords) they will understand the nature and structure of the principle from which this praise proceeds, as they will feel that it is free and independent of any of those personal *recollections*, which, in some instances, have communicated a jealous and jaundiced hue to the colours of a picture, in which the hero or heroine of the piece was no *favourite* with the poet or the painter.

In addition to the labourer's houses, and the silver cup, (and which, in the eye of a mere painter of *character*, derive their sole value from their *principle*,) we feel some pleasure in observing, that in a conversation with Captain Hart, upon the criminal laws of England, we were struck with *astonishment* (not at his reprobation of these laws, for we never conversed with a virtuous and enlightened man who did not reprobate them, *but*) to hear our sentiments upon the Draco code, *uttered exactly in our own language*, by a gentleman who had never seen the individual before, to whom this language, and those sentiments, were so painfully familiar. His remarks upon the superior moral results of the following mode of punishment, as a substitute for the punishment of death (or even that of transportation) for the offence of forgery (and he might have included every other offence in the same catalogue, except perhaps the crime of murder committed or conspired) was more than commonly astonishing to us, because we had conceived it to be peculiar to our own thoughts, and regarded it as the primitive and *exclusive* product of our own mind and feelings.

This substitute, which from its evident tendency to dimi-

nish crime, to preserve human life for a period of repentance, to save the country expense, to make *permanent* the awful influence of suffering example, and to combine all these advantages with a perfect exercise of humanity, was one perfectly familiar to our own mind; but which we had never heard uttered by the tongue of a human being but our own, until Captain Hart happened to alight upon it in the course of conversation; and we could not but regard this proof of just sentiment as a favourable omen of the probably future senator of his country. The sentiment was virtually this. "Would not the ends of justice—the great duty of public example—and, above all, the reformation of the unfortunate criminal himself, be better answered, by chaining the offender to a barrow, and employing him in repairing the public roads, WITH HIS CRIME PLACARDED ON HIS BACK; than by hurrying him into eternity, by a punishment which shocks morality, hardens public feeling, is soon forgotten, and while remembered, is regarded by the people as a cruel abuse of power, and as setting the law of God, and his authority, at insolent defiance?"!!! No doubt they would; and when truly virtuous statesmen fill the office, from which a mock reformer of criminal law has been recently excluded, and receive the support which themselves and their cause will merit from a reformed Parliament, then England will be purified from the stain of blood which has disgraced her statutes, and under which the Christian humanity of her people has long groaned in vain; which has awfully swelled the catalogue of her crimes, as a nation; and although these crimes may be pardoned upon repentance and reformation, yet they may also be awfully remembered when the hour of her judgment comes. Should that day arrive, (which Heaven avert by a timely reformation of her laws,) it will then be matter of astonishment to the humbled and illuminated mind, how the bloody Dracos who created and maintained this system, and who, with the pious Castlereagh of *espionage* and six acts memory, defended their blood-stained code with obstinate consistency to the last; it will

then strike with astonishment, that England should have so long submitted tamely to this yoke, under the mistaken plea of *necessity*; a plea which the experience of other nations had proved to be fallacious; and which England herself, under the influence of a reformed system, will also find to be as false in fact, as the theory by which the Draco code has been maintained, is diabolical in principle. But it is thus that selfish and sanguinary men have, in all ages, fenced themselves round with sanguinary laws, under the plea of PUBLIC UTILITY; and while studying the science of government for this purpose, it is astonishing with what success they have cajoled the people into an absurd belief that they were protecting the rights of property and morality, BY A VIOLATION OF THE MOST SACRED LAWS OF GOD AND NATURE! *as if bloody sacrifices were the only remedy in reason for the prevention or punishment of crime!* or as if the religion which these monsters pretend to venerate, was a system so horribly odious and wicked, as to justify the crime of blood-guiltiness for the punishment of offences, in which murder committed, attempted, or even meditated, had no share! Under this lying and deceitful plea of *necessity*, the Jews put Jesus Christ to death. "It is expedient," said their high priest, "that one man die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not."—And again, "If we let this man alone, all men will believe on him, and the Romans will come, and take away our place and nation!"—Here was their error—they waded through blood *to the preservation of their nation, as they thought*; but the blood which they shed sealed their ruin; and when the cup of their iniquity was filled with blood, then in truth the Romans did come and take away their place and nation, as our Saviour had plainly foretold them! Had they believed in him, he would have saved them with a present and with an everlasting salvation; but believing neither in HIM, nor yet in their own law, which forbade them to shed *innocent blood*; they listened only to that policy of their corrupt reason, which told them there was a NECESSITY for his destruction; and by the counsels of this agent of Lucifer,



to whom their successors in state policy have also too deeply listened, they filled up that measure of their iniquity, which produced the final overthrow of their nation; when all the blood which they had shed, "from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the porch and the altar," was visited upon that unhappy race of men at the siege and sacking of Jerusalem. Thus was the evil which they dreaded, and which they had procured by CRIME, accomplished by the very means which they had taken to avert it!!! By the same policy, and under the counsels of the same lying master, did the Roman Emperors labour to exterminate the faith of Christ and its professors. It was no protection to these latter, that they were the best subjects in the state. Pliny, a Roman governor, (we believe it was) that bore testimony to the simplicity of their religious exercises, and to their innocent and harmless manners as citizens. But this was nothing. A state policy (a state *necessity*, as they called it) required that these Christians should be hunted down; and accordingly they were murdered by wholesale. But how did the war terminate? In process of time Rome perished, but Christianity remained!—This religion was not to perish; but the cup of Roman luxury and crime being full, the providential messengers of the destruction of the Roman Empire received their billet. The Popes, however, when swollen with pride and the lust of power, did not take warning by all which had happened to the state murderers who had gone before them. They played over the same wicked card, unhappy men, while they pretended that they were the vicars of Jesus Christ, and that their kingdom was not of this world!!! These Popes felt that there was a state *necessity* (*necessity* is always the word with these murderers) for destroying the Albigenes and other heretics, who refused submission to *their* church authority; and *they also* fulfilled the commission of their master.—But how did *this* war terminate? It terminated with them (as with other persecutors) in their final discomfiture. The Protestant religion triumphed; and although the Popes remain, they are shorn of their most dangerous fangs, while

the progress of liberty is every day threatening the residue of their oppressive power with destruction. England also travelled in the same track, being under the same NECESSITY. She could not learn, even with the gospel before her eyes, that the toleration of our brethren in their various opinions (for opinions break no bones) was not only a duty of charity, but a policy which establishes civil government in the strongest of all human holds, the hearts and affections of a free people.—But England, even when she gave up her religious persecutions, did not abandon her Draco code of law. She has not reached that point yet; but as the thing is evidently wrong, and doomed to destruction, that system of destruction has commenced, even *at her own expense*. The children of those Protestant Dissenters whom she had persecuted and driven from her shores, were the instruments appointed for this purpose. In the temple of liberty which they reared, *at her expense*, they built an altar, and dedicated it to the God of CHARITY; and, on this altar, no victim guiltless of blood is offered up as a sacrifice to the God of JUSTICE! The reformation of offenders, by wholesome discipline and employment, immediately followed. Crimes were quickly diminished, to the amount of one-third. Many unfortunate men were restored to society and their families. The land was *so far* cleansed from blood-guiltiness; and when the last remains of Negro slavery shall be banished from the United States, that country will have approached as near to the standard of political perfection, as is perhaps compatible with the circumstances of human nature in that state of weakness and depravity, into which it has unhappily fallen by a departure from the order in which God created it.

#### FISHERY.

The salmon fishery of the Foyle, the property of the Irish company, is situated in that part of the river which washes the base of this demesne, and may be seen from the margin of the lawn.

## THE HOUSE.

We shall now close this description with an observation or two upon the appearance and apartments of the house, which we noticed incidentally in the progress of this essay.

As to its exterior, the dwelling-house is a building of plain though respectable appearance; but when you enter the apartments, you find several of them spacious, lofty, luminous, and richly decorated with family and other paintings, the works of eminent artists. Two of these apartments on the dormitory floor, present to the inhabitants, in an eminent degree, the pleasures of prospect; one to the Donegal mountains, (a magnificent view when Aurora unlocks the chambers of the east,) the other over the river Foyle, to the romantic mountain-rocks of Magilligan; and which, though less distinguished by the sublime and lofty dignity of nature, than the former view, connects in a close embrace with the prospect of these mountain-rocks (which nature appears to have flung from her hand in one of her eccentric flights) the calm and chastened beauties of the river view.

## KILDERRY.

This was the family seat of General Hart, the late Governor of Londonderry and Culmore, and sitting member for the County of Donegal at the period of our visit. It is a seat venerable for its age, and stands on a level demesne of 300 acres, distinguished for the value and variety of its timber, and by a large tract of bog with which it approximates. Such being the geography of the soil, whatever of wealth or beauty it can boast, must be sought for within its own precincts; for it commands no gratifying prospect of distant and richly embellished scenes (not even of the lively city scene in its own district.) It stands much lower than Ballynaguard (as may be inferred from its lying horizontal with a bog or moor;) and of its mineral and other commercial resources, if such exist, we know nothing.

The rich and respectable exterior of the mansion house,



unite with the value and variety of the timber, the tame level of the soil, the *straight* avenue, (which constitutes the approach to the house,) and the bog and water with which the scene abounds, to fix an impression of that species of rural respectability, which was peculiar to the last and preceding century, when plain houses, *straight lines*, and *tame levels*, were the fashion of the day; and when the good sense of our sober ancestors had fully instructed them in the value of bog and water.

In reference to the interior of the house, its divisions, subdivisions, and ramifications, we can say nothing; since they are so numerous and complex as to render description inconvenient, although the curious originality of their number, form, and connection, is exceedingly amusing, and the interest which they communicate to the curious observer is considerably heightened, by the observation of some rich and well executed family paintings.

Kilderry being thus situated on a plain, enclosed by trees, and encircled by bog and water, without any interesting prospect to revive and cheer it; its distinguishing characteristic may be considered as one of *solitary grandeur*, (such as we might expect to meet with in a rural district in a country thinly peopled) forming a striking contrast to the proud peculiarities of a modern villa, standing on the summit or declivity of a noble hill, (over valleys thickly inhabited, richly cultivated, and pregnant with monuments of art) with wings of plantation proudly flying from each extremity of the house; approaches sweeping by circuitous courses towards opposite sections of the country; with the lady-like mansion looking down in the pride of her elevation, through numerous brilliant reflectors, upon distant valleys (glittering with monuments of art, and rivers of commerce) lying prostrate at her feet, doing homage to her beauties, and deriving a dazzling and soul-cheering ray of splendour from the sunshine of her charms.

The village of Muff, in the neighbourhood of Kilderry, (already noticed as communicating with the city of Derry by the shore road) is, we believe, situated on the General's

estate; and we heard that he had erected a school house there, for the education of the children of his tenantry residing in that neighbourhood.

The distance from hence to Londonderry, which is the post town to Kilderry, is about six Irish miles.\*

#### BELLEMOUNT.

(Iron Ore.)

This is the seat of Wm. Miller, Esq., an active and useful member of the Londonderry branch of the North-west Farming Society, and of the Managing Committee of the Agricultural School at Templemoyle; to which school we understand he has rendered important services, by an assiduous attention to the details of the institution, and by an able discharge of the duties connected with the secretaryship to its managing committee.

Bellemount stands in a low position, (comparatively destitute of prospect) on the shore road, already noticed in our descriptions of the Farm and Ballynaguard. It is a plain lodge (built by Mr. Miller himself) on a small demesne of twenty-five Conyngham acres, which he has ornamentally planted. As such it may be regarded as a respectable feature of improvement on the Irish company's estate, who are also, we believe, proprietors of some part of the ground on which the city of Derry has been built.

The soil produces sound corn crops of average quantity, and is admirably adapted to all sorts of vegetable productions.

Iron ore is said to have made its appearance in a dyke at the bottom of the lawn, and to have been turned up by the plough in the cultivation of the farm.

Bellemount stands within two English miles of Derry, which is the post town to it.

\* It has just now occurred to us that KILL-DERRY is a very appropriate name for the General's seat; as the city of Derry, its hill, valley, and all its neighbouring beauties, are completely killed (kilt the Irish would call it) or cut off, in the view from that place. Or the name might have originated with King James, when his troops were here, labouring to *Kill Derry* and *cut off* its supplies.

## THORNHILL.

This is the seat of William Curry, Esq., and, considered as a lodge in the villa stile, situated on a small demesne of twenty-four acres, it is an interesting feature of improvement on the shore road, noticed in our recent descriptions.

Thorn hill approximates with Ballynaguard, and commands a considerable proportion of the same prospect. The river Foyle washes the base of the demesne; and the mountains of Donegal and Magilligan are good objects in the front view.

The house is a comfortable and apparently commodious edifice; has an extremely neat and well dressed garden annexed to it; and for the full enjoyment of the land and water view which it commands, its position is sufficiently exalted above the general level of the scene.

This seat is distant from Londonderry, which is the post town to it, about three miles.

## GREENHAW HOUSE.

(Fertility of the soil.)

This is the seat of Mr. Mc Clintock; the gentleman whose soil and wheat crop were noticed in our description of the Farm. It is a new *domicile*; deriving, we believe, its whole existence *in that character*, from the present proprietor and resident.

In addition to the excellent wheat crop produced here in 1826, (we mean excellent for the soil of this district) it is also eminently adapted to the growth of plants and all vegetable productions; a single acre, with the benefit of irrigation, having produced, *as Mr. Mc Clintock assured us*, no less than eight tons of hay in a single crop!!! and from another portion of this valuable soil, one of rye grass, and one of turnips in the same season. The soil is also, under proper cultivation, well calculated for the growth of corn crops, as may be reasonably inferred from the wheat crop just noticed, and which is said to have brought the highest price then going in the markets of that country.



Greenhaw lies much lower than the Farm, which stands elevated immediately above it, on the opposite side of the shore road. It embraces a neat new edifice and about thirty acres of demesne, ornamentally planted; and although the trees were but six years down when we saw the place, they had made a noble progress.

Greenhaw is distant from Londonderry, which is the post town to it, about two miles.

#### BEECH-HILL.

(Trade and scenery of the Faughan river.)

This is the seat of Connolly Skipton, Esq., and contains about forty Conyngham acres; being part and parcel of an extensive property, held under the Irish company by the family of this gentleman, from an early period of their settlement in this country.

It stands, with divers other interesting seats, on the old road communicating between Derry and Dungiven; and from the value and variety of its aged timber, the river Faughan which forms a boundary to it, an extensive bleach green on that river, (held by a company of merchants under the proprietor of this seat,) and its connection with a richly planted, highly improved, and, in certain parts on the banks of the river, extremely picturesque neighbourhood; it may be regarded as a feature of highly respectable appearance on that line of road, although it lies too low to command an extensive prospect of the country.

Certain parts, however, of the lands of Beech-hill, are considerably elevated above the house. These lands are reputed to be composed of a dry gravel soil, well adapted to grain crops; and in the low lands, plants of all descriptions so eminently flourish, that one oak tree was produced here, which Mr. Skipton says, sold for £100! Its branches covered a considerable tract of soil, and extending on one side over the river Faughan, were converted into a bridge for the accomodation of foot passengers!

This river sustains divers bleach greens on its banks, and

contributes, in a due proportion, both to the beauty and the commerce of this district.

The demesne, though limited in its extent, combines many features of a rich and respectable character; among which a comfortable dwellinghouse, enveloped in the deep shade of its own full grown timber, a richly planted glen, an excellent garden, walled in and in full bearing, and sanded walks for the accommodation of the passenger through its richly wooded lawn, altogether unite to render Beech-hill a respectable specimen of the march of building and planting in this section of the country.

In reference to prospect, we have already observed that Beech-hill lies comparatively low. Still, however, it commands one interesting view, through a vista in its wood, to a lofty mountain in the county of Donegal, whose blue summit sheds a rich and cheering influence on this domestic scene; while in the opposite direction, a hill called "Ned's top," which terminates the property and the prospect, is a noble object in the topography of the neighbouring lands.

Beech-hill is distant from Derry, which is the post town to it, about three English miles.

#### COOLKEIRAGH.

(Philippic to the Nobility and Gentry, upon that depression of the landed and commercial interests, to which their indolence and want of energy have conducted Ireland.)

Coolkeiragh, which in the Irish language signifies the *back* of the sheep; a name that might possibly have been derived from the occupation of these lands as a sheep walk, and from their lofty bearing on this bank of the river Foyle, (as it is generally understood that all the ancient names of our town lands, had reference to some peculiar circumstance in the natural or civil history of the place,) is an ancient property, for some generations in the possession of the family of Major Young, who is now preparing to build and plant, and to make other useful improvements on these lands.

Coolkeiragh comprehends about 500 Conyngham acres of arable and bog, of which 60 acres are reserved for a demesne, and it is not a hyperbole to say, that *when* a handsome house has been erected on the summit or declivity of the hill, thus beautifully elevated above the river Foyle, and which commands a front view of Ballynaguard, and of the Donegal mountains over that noble water; together with ornamental plantations adapted to the geography of the soil; that *then* Coolkeiragh will rank high among the splendid improvements on that section of the river which approximates with Derry; and which, in the scenery of Ireland, is perhaps only exceeded in beauty by the picturesque of Wicklow, Killarney, and Slane.

The bog included in this property amounts to about 60 acres only; and, consequently, the larger proportion of these lands is applicable to all the valuable purposes of agriculture. Bog, however, even as an article of fuel, is in good demand in the Derry market; more particularly as a large proportion of this fuel soil has been recently rescued from the fires of the country, by the growing *taste* of a rapidly increasing population for agricultural productions; those productions we mean that are so well known in Ireland by the names of horse-corn, true blues, lady fingers, long grenadiers, cups, apples, white eyes, blacks, &c.—These latter, however, “the blacks,” are, in our estimation, a much more sweet and delicious fruit, than even the loveliest of the white-eyes; but as this is a mere matter of *taste*, we do not presume to dictate to the Major, as to the kind of eyes which he may think it best to plant and propagate on the lovely lands of Coolkeiragh; as experience must long since have instructed him in those which are the most sweet and nutritive, the most *prolific*, and the best adapted to his soil and taste.

With this march of *taste*, (notwithstanding the obvious inroads it is making upon the fuel of the country) we have but one fault to find; it is this; that the lords of the soil, perceiving that their bogs are beginning gradually to disappear, are nevertheless extremely tardy in making a forced



march upon the mountains, in pursuit of another species of fuel, to supply the place of that, which, in certain districts, is so rapidly disappearing. Our own opinion is, that the English and Scotch colliers have profited a little too largely by our want of enterprise in this most necessary branch of domestic industry, by which *every description of Irish manufacture requiring fuel*, has so deeply suffered, that while in certain towns in England, coal may be had, by the manufacturing interest, for 8 or 9 shillings a ton; in Dublin, and some other towns in Ireland, it frequently cannot be had for less than three times that price! to say nothing of the intolerably oppressive weight of such an enormous price, for such a necessary of life, upon all the inhabitants of the towns and cities of the coast, and those adjacent to them, who are *not* engaged in manufactures, and are destitute of turf bog; but particularly that numerous class, who derive their subsistence from a life of labour at low prices, and who are therefore but ill able to sustain the weight of this intolerable burthen. But where, we beg permission to ask, may the source of this incumbrance be found? Is it in the scarcity of the mineral? To this we shall make no other reply to any one who knows the natural history of Ireland, than a note of admiration! Is it in the total inadequacy of our capital to the commencement and continuance of the necessary public works? Let the millions that are and have been sent from Ireland in latter years, to the English funds (with but little prospect of their returning to this country, as Ireland is now situated) answer that question. Is it in the *insecurity* of life and property in the North of Ireland, the Protestant Province of that country, that the cause exists? Let the thousands of commercial establishments that cover the face of that province, and even in the present low state of trade, give employment to hundreds of thousands of the labouring poor, reply. Is it in the enormous profits of the linen trade, that are so seducing, that a guinea would not be withdrawn from it, in order to be vested in any other branch of trade, under any circum-

stances of encouragement that the landed interest might offer? We think the present circumstances of the linen trade will give an answer to this question, perfectly satisfactory to every man who has a correct idea of the present measure of its profits. Deeply depressed as the staple manufacture of Ireland is at present, there is still a great deal of capital embarked in it; and *thus* embarked it must remain, until a something more profitable, and equally extensive, shall come forward to supersede it. There is also a certain proportion of capital in the country lying dormant in the Irish funds; and, consequently, the high prices of coal, and the paucity of public works, whether of coal, or copper, or iron, is not so much owing to a deficiency of capital, as to a deficiency of encouragement, and of genuine public spirit, on the part of the owners of the soil.—Here is the true cause of Ireland's depression. Here is the source of her rapidly increasing poverty. Here is the main-spring of her dependence upon the sister countries for the common necessities of life. By this her manufactures were destroyed. By this her capital was paralyzed and rendered profitless. By this the income of her soil was alienated from the land which produced it; and by this, that domestic legislature which was the guardian of her trade, was laid prostrate. And through a continuance of the same inattention to her welfare, she is permitted to remain the victim of a hopeless poverty, a degrading immorality, and a state of anarchy that harrows up the spirit with despair.

In the province of Ulster there is both the capital and the character to effect all that can be effected by mere men of trade; and any deficiency of public enterprise, by which that province is distinguished, is not imputable, in our opinion, to the commercial, but to the landed interest, which, notwithstanding the generous qualities of their character (and no doubt they are many) have nevertheless been too frequently and generally distinguished by a culpable indifference to their country's wealth. They do not unite, as many members of the English landed interest do, in a

long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether, for the salvation of their sinking trade, and for the lasting interest of their own properties. The consequences we see and feel, in every rank and department of this sinking country ; which, for want of union and energy in the landed interest (who hate the cares of trade, and yet love the power and profit, of which trade and commerce are the lasting base) has been long bleeding at every pore. But we have said so much on this subject to the gentlemen of the north, in other sections of this work, that we shall now close the subject with a rapid review of *the possible results* of Irish trade proceeding *backwards* (as it has done of late,) in a steady march to that goal of ruin, beyond which it can proceed no further. In this retrograde march *be it well observed*, that in proportion as TRADE becomes weak and unable to bear the burthens of the state, those burthens must fall, in a similar ratio, upon the LANDS of the country, which *alone* will be able to sustain them. The poor also continuing to multiply ; and the measure, *both of their employment and their wages*, continuing to *decrease*, there is no measure of VIRTUE which human nature can command *in such circumstances* ; nor no measure of PUNISHMENT which human tyranny can inflict, will protect the properties of the comparatively rich from being pillaged. Pillaged they will be, and that often and deeply ; until at length the absentee lords (yes, and the presentee too) finding that the system has begun *in right earnest* to press heavily upon their resources, will begin, like the Manchester yeomanry, to open their eyes to the existence of a cause for their misfortunes, very different from that to which they had previously imputed it ; and then instead of trampling down the wretches who had endeavoured to wrest an existence from the soil on which they were born, they will begin to perceive that in working the machine of their own interest, and that of the generations who are to succeed them, the labouring poor will prove a useful lever in their hand ; and by the same engine with which they raise their own properties and country in the scale of wealth, they will



raise the labouring poor above the necessity of pillage. They will strengthen the barriers by which property is protected, by strengthening the barriers of duty and of justice; but these, universally neglected and trampled under foot by those to whom the poor most justly look up for protection and employment, the foundations of law will sink; and the few sentiments of morality which had been previously cherished, will yield to the still more loud and imperative claims of distressed nature. Here is the natural and necessary progress of society, in a country abandoned by its legitimate protectors, and left to shift for itself, without adequate combinations of character and capital to work its virgin resources to a profitable issue.

We should be sorry to see the remote results of such a system, so heavily visited on the Irish nobility and gentry, as to reduce them to the situation of state mendicants, waiting for the crumbs that might be thrown to them from the ministers' table (or contemptuously refused to them after long waiting) while their properties were pillaged, their lands mortgaged, and their tenantry unable to pay them rent!! It would be a melancholy sight to see these unfortunate Irishmen thus kicked from the minister's table, and compelled to exchange their palaces in St. James's-street, for snug boxes in Islington; or like some French counts and chevaliers in the courtly days of the Louis's, creeping into poets's corners, to live privately *with us* in the garrets of Grub-street, London; and feeding, like so many *walking shadows* upon the ethereal food of spirits, in exchange for the good solid beef and mutton of old Ireland, with plenty of Claret and Madeira to wash them down! This, to be sure, would be a great revolution in the circumstances of these great men: but let trade be wholly neglected; let the absentee system be followed up; let the income of the land be constantly drained out of it, and nothing sent back to the country in return: and let the poor multiply in the land of Egypt, while their poverty increases; and if, in a few generations more, the story of the French counts and che-

valiers don't come to pass in our own country, we must only say, that PRINCIPLES and CAUSES have changed their nature; and that it is now no longer the property of flame to ascend upwards; of waters to roll their currents to the sea; or of sovereigns to become lessened in their numbers by an exhausting expenditure, without an equivalent income to replace the draught.

Coolkeiragh stands on the eastern bank of the river Foyle, four miles from Londonderry, which is the post-town to it.

#### ASHBROOK.

Ashbrook, the seat of Wm. Hamilton Ash, Esq., is situated three miles east of Londonderry, which is the post-town to it, on the road communicating between Dungiven and that city.

It comprehends a good mansion-house, and 150 Conyng-ham acres of a stiff clay soil, retentive of water; but, under proper cultivation, producing good crops of corn, extremely grassy, and well adapted to the growth of plants.

The demesne is bounded on one side by the river Faughan; and from a road on the bank of that river which communicates with the coach-road between Dublin and Derry, this seat is seen in its best aspect, the plantations taking a copious range on the distant shore, in full view of the traveller in his approach to Ashbrook.

The situation of this seat being comparatively low, the prospect from hence is by no means open and extensive; but the interior features of the place, when inspected on the spot, are found extremely respectable.

There are about 20 acres of this demesne under wood, and about 50 under wood and lawn; and though not enjoying the advantage of an elevated position, it nevertheless contributes a limited proportion of influence to that picturesque of the river-scene between Derry and Dungiven, which, for the enjoyment of prospect, constitutes the road between these towns a very interesting drive in the summer season.

## DUNMORE HOUSE.

This is the seat (and part of a fee-simple estate) of Robt. M'Clintock, Esq., and comprehends a good mansion-house and about 100 Conyngham acres of a demesne, exhibiting the aspect and evidences of the style of a century back, when architecture and landscape gardening had made very partial advances towards the beauty and perfection of modern villas.

The house stands on a gentle eminence, opening a communication through a spacious lawn, by a *straight avenue*, with the road from Derry to Raphoe, and with the village of Carrigans on this estate, which is situated on the same road.

In this village there are valuable flour-mills, held by a merchant of Derry, under Mr. M'Clintock; and as large lighters have a free water-passage between Derry and those mills, the latter may be justly regarded as a valuable appendage to this property. These mills are turned by a stream which issues from Portlough, and empties its waters into the river Foyle.

The ordinary crops of this district are oats, flax, and potatoes; but the acreable produce of the first and last of these staple crops, is not at all equal to that of average soils in the good corn districts of the southern provinces. Oats here usually yield (as Mr. M'Clintock informed us) 120 stones to the acre. In the southern soils, that land is not considered even *moderately good*, where the same quantity of ground will not produce 196 stones, that is, 14 barrels of 14 stones each. The average of the potatoe crop on the lands of Dunmore, is estimated at 50 sacks of 24 stones each, per acre: that of good southern soils at 400 stones more. We conclude that certain parts of these lands are well adapted to the growth of wheat, as we saw a remarkably dense crop of that grain on the farm of a Mr. Boggs, a respectable tenant on the Dunmore estate. We could not learn, however, that this crop is usual here, and we hence inferred that



the farm just noticed had the advantage in quality, and perhaps in cultivation also, of the lands around it.

There is some timber on these lands; but in the fashion of the age in which the trees were put down, the planter appears to have had his eye fixed *exclusively* upon value and convenience, and not upon the decoration of the demesne; as they are not distributed with that taste and skill, by which plantations are now made to contribute so largely to the beauty of our modern villas.

There is a valuable quarry of black granite in the neighbourhood of this property; it is a hard stone well calculated for roads, and for this purpose is boated to Derry, by the proprietor, Sir Robt. Ferguson, whose lands form a boundary to this property.

Labourers employed by gentlemen in this neighbourhood, receive one shilling per diem. The business of farms is performed by servants at £6 per annum and their board, &c.

There is some bog attached to Dunmore, but no limestone; and consequently the former is chiefly valuable here as an article for house fuel. As for the potatoe and grain crops produced from *unreclaimed* bogs, they are generally very soft and bad.

Dunmore-house commands an interesting view over the river Foyle to the distant mountains. It is separated from the road which forms a boundary to it, by a stone wall the whole length of the demesne. Its distance from Derry, which is the post-town to it, is about four miles, and from Raphoe (which is a Bishop's See) about eight.

#### PREHEN.

Prehen, the seat and property of Lieut.-Col. Knox, comprehends an excellent dwelling-house, and 200 acres of demesne (part of a fee-simple property of 800 English acres) beautifully situated on the river Foyle, and commanding an interesting view of the city of Londonderry, and of divers gentleman's seats beyond the river.

These lands are said to contain mineral springs; but a more extensive property of this family, situated on the banks of Lough Swilly in the County of Donegal, is much more remarkable for the depth and variety of its mineral treasures.

This property in Donegal is distinguished by the name of the Rathmullen estate, as the village of Rathmullen is situated on it. It contains excellent free-stone, lead, and strong indications of iron, with lime-stone for smalting on the spot; and from the value of these various treasures, and the situation of those lands on the shores of one of the finest waters in the world, they must be well circumstanced for manufactures and commerce.

Rathmelton, six miles from Rathmullen, is the post-town to the Donegal estate, and Londonderry to that of Prehen (the family residence) from which it is about two miles distant.

N. B. A few of the succeeding seats are introduced under the head of this county, although situated in that of Donegal, as they stand in the neighbourhood of the city of Derry, which is the market and post-town to them.

#### BIRDSTOWN.

This is the title of an excellent new-built house, and a demesne of 200 acres, ornamentally planted, and is situated in a retired valley at the foot of that part of the mountains of Donegal which approximate with Derry.

It is a creation of the Rev. P. B. Maxwell, who appears to be effecting, so far as his jurisdiction extends, a progressive, and yet comparatively rapid regeneration of a wild tract of country.

The demesne forms a minor proportion of an extensive tract of mountain and plain, in the barony of Innishowen, in the County of Donegal, held in perpetuity by Mr. Maxwell from the Marquis of Donegal, who is the lord of the soil.

The lands (with the exception of the rocky summits of

the mountains, which might grow oak the most valuable of all timber) although extremely poor, are obviously susceptible of great improvement; and from the capital already expended there, and the visible monuments of skill and persevering labour which the demesne exhibits, we flatter ourselves, if the life of the holder shall be prolonged to the usual period, that he will establish at the foot of those mountains, a triumphant proof of the victory that may be achieved over the poorest soils, by capital and industry; and having thus discharged his duty to his property, he will leave behind him a monument of reproof and shame to those deserters of their country, who have abandoned the post of protection and improvement, which reason and Providence had so obviously assigned to them, for a residence in foreign lands; but, in the progress of events, the impolicy of this system may come to be inscribed in legible characters upon the page of their own properties, when no remedy may remain, but that of drinking, with patient submission to their fate, the cup of suffering privation, which their own hand had mingled.

Birdstown stands on a line of road which communicates between Muff and Donegal; and which also conducts from this seat to the road leading from Buncrana to Londonderry, which latter is the post-town to it, and from which it is distant about six miles.

#### BURT-HOUSE.

This is the name by which the seat of Andrew Ferguson, Esq. stands distinguished among the various villages and villas, which grace the banks of Lough Swilly. It is an ancient feature of improvement, (having been in the Ferguson family for nearly two centuries) on the valuable property of Col. Chichester in the County of Donegal; and commands a fine prospect over Lough Swilly to the distant mountains, as also of the island of Inch, which rises out of the lough to a considerable height above the level of the sea.—This mountain island is one of the finest objects in



the landscapes of the lough, and being cultivated by resident farmers to the top, it forms a very valuable part of the Chichester property.

Burt-house stands on a lofty chain of land on the western bank of Lough Swilly; and is indebted to this its finely elevated position for the prospect of that fine land and water scene which we have just noticed. Its avenue descends to a line of road which sweeps round the lough, and opens a communication with the city of Derry and the town of Buncrana, upon one side; and with the market and post-town of Letterkenny in the County of Donegal, upon the other.

Derry, the principal sea-port of this section of the country, being only six miles distant, and Burt-house having a communication both by land and water, with the above towns of Letterkenny and Buncrana; this place is, consequently, well circumstanced for the conveyance of its farming produce to the various public markets. The city just noticed is its post and market-town, as also that of divers other seats in this section of Donegal, and hence we have placed them under the Derry head.

#### FAHAN COTTAGE.

This is a little cottage beauty at the foot of the mountains of Innishowen (a little beyond the Bishop of Derry's palace, as you proceed from Derry to Buncrana) that with suitable plantations, and on a more elevated site, would have had a better claim to the title of a villa, than on the margin of the road where it now stands, and where its little beauties enveloped in a rustic wall, lie too low, and are too much concealed from view, to command that attention which every visitor will acknowledge they deserve, on inspecting the interior order and arrangement of the cottage.

It stands on the property of a Mr. Norman, of Dublin, and comprises a pretty little cottage and flower garden, on a small farm of ten acres (apparently well cultivated and

improved) with some mountain land, hitherto useless to the tenant.

It is a creation of Mr. William Huffington, a respectable tradesman of Derry; and as he has not displayed very superior skill in the site which he selected for his cottage, we are induced to impute the English neatness and beauty of this little habitation to Mrs Huffington, who appears to be a woman of good sense and taste.

The interest which we take in the improvement of our country, justifies us in noticing this little improvement, as an object of imitation to other farmers and tradesmen; and as an inducement to wise landlords to give due encouragement to tenants of this character, whose property and principles furnish a guarantee to the lord of the soil for the improvement of his estate, and whose well exerted industry is calculated to enrich the appearance and to raise the reputation of their country.

Fahan cottage, which is the only proper name for this pretty little lowly thing, on the road-side, and to which the more lofty appellation of Fahan villa, selected by the proprietor, is totally unsuitable (a rather more lofty position for the cottage, and a less lofty title for the place, would have been better) stands about seven miles west of Derry, which is the post-town to it.

#### MRS. HEATH OF FAHAN.

In the same neighbourhood we visited the residence of that respectable lady, Mrs. Heath of FAHAN, (pronounced FAWHAN by the people of the country,) a word, we presume, intended to designate a town-land, or some similarly small canton; as it is the name universally given to the district of the bishop's palace; and we know not upon what principle the whole neighbourhood of that building should be thus designated, unless Fahan be the ancient name of the parish, or of the town-land upon which the palace stands.

This seat of Mrs. Heath stands on a level with Lough Swilly, and comprises a plain but convenient old mansion-

house, in the style of a century or two backwards, together with 32 acres of a demesne, by no means very ornamentally planted, situated on the eastern shore of the lough, with the Inch mountain rising out of that water in the front view.

Although Heath is the lady's name that owns this place, there is no manner of connection between her name and her soil, or between her name and her character; for these are not barren and unfruitful, like "the heath in the desert that knoweth not when good cometh."

Derry is the post-town to this place.

#### PENNYBOURN FLOUR MILLS.

These mills are situated on the shore road, already noticed as communicating between the city of Derry and the village of Muff in Donegal; within two miles of the former, which is the post town to them.

They are in the possession of Messrs. John Bond and Co., who employ from fourteen to sixteen hands in their establishment, and purchase annually about 500 tons of wheat, the produce of their own neighbourhood.

There is a handsome lodge attached to the mills; which standing in a shady position on a lawn fenced in from the public road, with the mills at the rear of the mansion house in full view of the traveller; these buildings contribute, with other objects, to give an appearance of trade, property and population, to the shore road, already noticed as standing pre-eminently distinguished among the roads of Derry for the beauty and variety of the seats and scenery through which it passes.

#### THE RIVER FOYLE.

This eminent commercial water takes its rise from two sources; one from Lough Finn, in the mountains of Donegal, midway between the coast and Stranorlar; and the stream proceeding from this source receives the name of the river Finn, until it forms a junction with the Mourne river at the



town of Lifford. The other takes its rise in a mountain situated between Fintona in the county of Tyrone, and Enniskillen in that of Fermanagh; and the river rolling from this source (under the denomination of the Mourne) through a section of Tyrone, waters the towns of Omagh and Newtownstewart, in its progress to Lifford, where it forms a junction with the Finn; when these united waters flowing thenceforth together in the same chanel, they receive the new denomination of the river Foyle. Under this name they reach the city of Londonderry, where they form a broad and rapid water; but increasing in size as they advance in their progress towards the ocean, they receive the designation of LOUGH-Foyle, within two miles of the village of Muff, in the county of Derry; the great expansion of their waters at that place (where they closely approximate with the main lough) appearing to justify that more eminently distinctive appellation.\*

\* At Strabane in the county of Tyrone, within half a mile of Lifford, in that of Donegal, they call one of the above branches, as we have denominated it, "the Mourne." At Omagh they call *the same branch*, "the Cameron;" and at Newtownstewart they give it a cognomen of their own; so that a stranger who had taken no trouble to trace the course of this river, would suppose the three towns just noticed to be watered by separate streams; whereas it is one and the same river which passes through or near them.

## CHAPTER V.

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### COUNTY OF TYRONE.

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Town of STRABANE—its trade, markets, taxes, charities, &c.; together with critical remarks upon the manner of levying local taxes upon towns and counties in IRELAND.

We entered the county of Tyrone from that of Derry, by the town of Strabane, situated on the river Mourne, on an estate of the Marquis of Abercorn, whose agent, Sir John Burgoyne, an intelligent magistrate, constantly resides in that town or its immediate neighbourhood.

Strabane, although not the assizes town of Tyrone, nor sufficiently central for the seat of justice (an important civil distinction but little attended to in many parts of Ireland,) \* is nevertheless, the largest and most populous town in this county; and being accommodated with a canal, extending about four miles from hence to a deep and navigable position on the river Foyle, is, consequently, well circumstanced for trade; as a communication is effectually opened by these waters with the port of Derry, and the canal navigable for vessels of forty or fifty tons burthen.

The merchants of Strabane being thus accommodated

\* Witness Donegal (the largest county in the north) whose seat of judgment is at Lifford, *within half a mile of Strabane, on the western margin of Tyrone!* that of Tipperary in the south; where poor people residing in the northern section of the county, have been obliged to walk forty miles on foot to the assizes at Clonmel; of Antrim, where people are compelled to traverse a large tract of country before they arrive at Carrickfergus, the seat of judgment on the coast! By a perusal of the map, divers other counties may be found similarly circumstanced; and thus it is that convenience, common sense, and common justice, are permitted to be superseded by customs, having their origin in circumstances that have long since disappeared.

with cheap water carriage to Derry, have opened an extensive communication with Liverpool, in the corn, beef, pork, and butter trades; and maintain also an occasional correspondence with Scotland in oats and barley; receiving from that country, coal and whiskey, in return. In this communication with the sister countries, and in certain important branches of the home trade also, the house of Mr. David Smyth is probably the most extensive in Strabane. He and other merchants have built considerable stores at the canal harbour; and these, with the light craft occasionally anchored there, and laden with coal, iron, salt, timber and flax seed, from Derry, give that part of the town a rising appearance. But it is not in these respects only that the merchants of Strabane maintain a correspondence with England. Some of the most extensive import woollen and other goods direct from that country; and, consequently, are enabled to supply the inhabitants with those goods at nearly English prices. Mr. Stephenson, the most extensive hardware merchant here, imports large quantities of manufactured iron and steel from Birmingham and Sheffield. The town has also a weekly corn market, a weekly linen market, and what they call an English Woollen Hall; and no doubt in point of *quantity* a good deal of business is done in all these various branches, although *at most reduced and miserable profits*, since the linen trade has been so eminently supplanted by the cotton and capital of England, and by a total suppression of the bounties which had formerly protected it. While *this* staple manufacture of the country flourished, poverty was comparatively unknown in Ulster; but since the act of Union has developed the full measure of its BLESSINGS to Ireland, even that *stamina* of Ulster, which was the fruit of many centuries of successful industry (and which carried peace and plenty into every cottage) has been forced to yield; and now we find poverty and distress in many once comfortable habitations, and even wide spreading mendicity (the shame of Christianity and civilization) stalking over a large proportion of the face of Ulster, as in



the other provinces, where the bulk of the population have been so long and so deeply steeped in *the lowest stage of human degradation*, that to lie upon the same floor and part of the same straw, and to sit in the same corner with the sow and her litter, which pay their rent, is the frequent practice of the working people and their children, to say nothing of the state of nudity in which many of these latter are seen upon the public roads; or the defenceless state of those mudwall hovels (some of them in the gripes of ditches) in which these children are prepared for an introduction into those called the haunts of human and civilized existence, within the pale of that country and constitution which are so proudly called, "*the envy and admiration of the world*" !!!

#### PAPER MILLS.

There are divers paper mills in the coarse lapping trade in the neighbourhood of Strabane. We believe some of these are to be disposed of; and as there is always a demand for lapping paper in the home market, the purchase of these mills might not be a bad speculation in the hands of an able manager, with a skilful salesman that knows the country.

#### MARKET REGULATIONS.

One of the greatest defects in the political economy of most Irish towns (and perhaps even Strabane may be included in the number) is the total inattention of the magistracy to the minor regulations of the public market. You can scarcely find a standard for the weight of bread in any of these towns! or places fixed (to the total exclusion of the practice of hawking) for the sale of fowl, fish, fresh butter, garden vegetables &c; and if you want those articles, and who does not? you may look for them in vain, unless you happen to be an established house holder, and that the hawker with his or her goods may choose to call upon you! Thus are strangers situated in many Irish towns, when obliged by the nature of their duties to take up their abode *pro tempore*, in private lodgings, or in a small house for a

limited period of time. Nor can the inattention of the magistracy to the necessary regulations of a public market, prove much less injurious to the inhabitants, than to those unfortunate strangers, who, on their arrival in these towns, find no established and well regulated market to which they may repair for the necessary accommodation of their tables; and in these circumstances, must either yield to many inconvenient privations, or go through a long course of perplexing enquiry, in endeavouring to procure for their money some of the most plain and ordinary necessities of life! But as, by a little attention on the part of the magistrates and landlords of those towns, the inconveniences resulting from private sale and the absence of established markets might be easily removed, is it not surprising that such an obvious duty should be omitted? But we recollect that these gentlemen have good gardens, plenty of cows, and abundance of poultry on their own premises, and therefore they do not *feel* these inconveniences in their own persons. This perhaps is the best and most conclusive solution that we could furnish for the difficulties resting upon this market question. The landlords and magistrates do not themselves *feel* the want of markets for minor articles of produce, and therefore no want exists. Neither did the boroughmongers *feel* the inconvenience of a corrupt representation, and therefore that representation was right and pure. Neither do the bishops *feel* the burthen of tithes, and the princely weight of 100,000 acres of the best land in Europe, as a premium to a single man for doing next to nothing; and therefore these gentlemen are utterly *astounded* at the outcry that is raised against their livings. It is and has been thus in all ages, and in almost every case, where the public good *alone* was the object to be promoted. But where is the remedy for this disease? We know of one only—to make good laws, and to enforce them.

Londonderry, to the credit of the corporation of that city, has established very good market places, and suitable regulations for the public accommodation; and, consequently,

the inhabitants, and even temporary residents, are at no loss for the supply of their tables with every necessary comfort; and were it not that the toll of their long wooden bridge is a grievous nuisance, and that the all-engrossing concerns of their trade, and perhaps the latent infusions of a severe sectarian morality, appear to have narrowed the scene of those just and rational amusements, which give such an air of gaiety and generosity to the populous towns of France and England, and even to those of Dublin, Belfast, and Enniskillen, in our own country. Were it not for these, Derry, from its good markets, and good mercantile accommodations, the highly improved and civilized country in which it is situated, and the beauty of its position over the river Foyle, would constitute an extremely interesting residence for either English or Irish gentlemen retiring to live upon small incomes, and who are consequently obliged to choose cheap markets, and to study a principle of economy, in the indulgence of all their necessary pleasures.

Having now touched upon the great inconvenience resulting from magisterial inattention to the market and other regulations of a town, let us briefly advert to another conspicuous grievance, by which the shopkeepers and farmers of Ireland are notoriously and shamefully oppressed. Every one whose destiny has compelled him to reside in Ireland since the act of Union, has been the painful observer of the unparalleled growth of mendicity within that period; and, if possessed of humanity, these observers must blush to think that the burden of this enormous and rapidly increasing mass, has been essentially thrown upon the shopkeepers and farmers of the country, upon whose industry and slender profits, so large a proportion of the public taxes necessarily fall.

For this great and crying evil we have already pointed out a remedy; a reasonable and practicable remedy, in our essay on the poor laws, (see table of contents) and to that essay we refer the reader for a solution of the difficulties resting upon this question. Another or two, however,



remain to be explained. The first refers to the unequal and incongruous regulations, by which the local taxes on towns and cities are frequently levied in this country. In Dublin, the town taxes are generally, if not universally, regulated by one master tax (which appears to have no reference to rent, capital, or income!) called "the minister's money," than which a more *unequal*, and apparently capricious standard of taxation, was perhaps never created or even thought of in the world! If our information be correct, this master tax has its rise in the valuation placed upon the house when built, by the minister of the district for the time being; and whatever changes the house, or even the district itself, may afterwards undergo, this tax, which (like the laws of the Medes and Persians) is not only *unalterable* in itself, but has the additional *bad luck* of drawing every other tax after it, remains stationary. And hence, we calculate, that the reverend divines and irreverend laymen, who have been authorised to collect the Dublin taxes since the Union poured forth the last drop of its cup of malediction upon that devoted city, must have had an exceedingly perplexing card to play, when they came to houses in the Liberty and elsewhere that had fallen into ruin, and were paying with difficulty ten or a dozen pounds per annum rent; although when valued by the minister, they were perhaps worth £50, £60, or even £100 a year; and the holder well able to pay that rent, and all the corresponding taxes with it. But it must be recollected that Ireland at that time had something like a trade; and that she basked under the sunshine of a domestic parliament, with a rich and generous resident nobility and gentry to cheer and to support their country.

These reverend and irreverend collectors, must indeed have had a difficult card to play, when they came in regular succession to these old premises to collect **SUCCESSIVE CROPS OF TAXATION**, amounting in the whole to perhaps twice or even three times the annual sum which the premises were then paying to the landlord in the shape of rent

(without fine or any other consideration whatsoever). Yes, indeed, these gentlemen must have looked rather *blank* when they were offered *blank cartridges* for their once good and substantial taxes. But if an honest and impartial Englishman marvel at this, and imagine that our picture of the ruin poured upon the Liberty and other parts of Dublin (where the cotton, woollen, and silk manufactures once eminently flourished) has been grossly overcharged; let such an Englishman, if his business should conduct him across the channel to that city, (which in mockery is called the second city in the British empire) let him, we say, call upon a Mr. Burke, a clothier, in Ardee street, or any other solitary member of the trade, who (like an apple in an orchard after a general shake) may have survived the British wintry storm; and the Irish tradesman will perhaps be able to remove the English enquirer's incredulity, by conducting him in person to those houses which answer the description we have given, and whose portentous history may be easily collected from the landlords' of the premises. But let this honest Englishman beware of forming an opinion of the trade and prosperity of Dublin, by the carriages and liveries in Grafton-street, Stephen's-green, &c.; for as a standard of prosperity, these liveries are not much more perfect than the minister's money, as a standard of taxation. The Earl of Meath's Liberty, which was once the scene of many a fruitful loom, is the true spot in which to grope for the genuine pulse of Irish manufacturing vitality, (we must here pause to touch our eye with the corner of an old silk handkerchief of Irish manufacture) and there the *honest* Englishman should go to look for it, (we say the *honest* Englishman, for in this essay we are not addressing ourselves to those narrow and selfish grubs, who imagine that England will rise like a Phoenix out of Irish ashes!) But if, notwithstanding this honest warning, John Bull will look for the test of our wealth in our carriages and liveries, &c., he may find himself deeply deceived after he has given us *deep credit* upon this here shewy principle.

His patience, we fear, (patient a brute as he is known to be) will be severely exercised when he comes to draw upon the carriages and liveries at *pay day*. A porter splendidly dressed will meet him at many a splendid gate, with the master's usual compliments, "Not at home." This watch word will never sleep; and after John has sent in his card for a year or two at least, and has always received the same answer, he will then prove by experience, what he ought to have known before his books were opened; namely, that it is the trade of a place, and not its carriages and liveries, that constitute the stamina of its strength, and the true test of its prosperity; and having paid dear for his knowledge of our country, he will at length learn, that with the exception of the North of Ireland, which is a province almost exclusively commercial, we are, *generally* speaking, a gay and pleasure loving people (not very particular about the promises which we make to *tradesmen*) and hence many a lady this, and a Sir Charly that, would sooner go to bed without their supper, and even hide a hole or two in the feet of their old silk stockings at a party, than encumber their creditors with useless cash, or part with a carriage and livery which, in strict justice, are not their own; and for this good reason, because although they cannot in reality afford to maintain these appearances, still they can much worse afford to part with them, since that would be to part with *the only heaven* which they know, the smiles of a certain circle of empty hearted belles and coxcombs, who have just as much merit and virtue as they have themselves! These good people will, therefore, make a shift to keep their carriages and liveries in *statu quo*; although if about to settle with their creditors, it is ten to one if the whole of this vain artillery and its appendages, with their white silk stockings into the bargain, would pay their creditors three shillings and sixpence to the pound.

In reference to that called the county cess (the last public tax we shall notice in this article) and which is levied by the grand jury off the county at spring and autumn; this



also is said to be raised either by a bad rule, by no fixed rule, or if by any regular rule, by one that has been long and loudly complained of as unjust, and with some appearance of reason. Let us take an example. If we may depend upon the testimony of a clergyman in the neighbourhood of Strabane, as communicated to us in the year 1830, the enormous sum of £6 3s. 4d. a house, was levied off a certain portion of the inhabitants of that town and parish, as their proportion of the county cess in that year; while in the same year, upon householders of similar holdings in the next parish, the sum of eight or ten shillings only was levied as *their* proportion of the same tax! If this has been truly represented to us, and that we have understood it rightly, it is totally impossible that such a revolting inequality of taxation as this, could have been in the contemplation of the law; and if it has proceeded from an abuse of privilege and power, it is high time that the functionaries who have made such a handle of their privileges should be displaced, and the county delivered from their future abuses, by a new and irresistible system of correction.

Soon after we received the information of this unequal levy (and which we have communicated to the English reader as an “unvarnished tale” having “extenuated nought, nor set down aught in malice,”) we endeavoured, by farther enquiry, to get at the bottom of the mystery by which this unequal machine was worked, but found *that* to be totally impossible. Those gentlemen, however, whose direct business it is to correct these abuses, and who to that end should search to the bottom of all facts connected with them, will probably be able to obtain much useful information from the Rev. Mr. Hamilton, the rector of Strabane, and a magistrate for the county; and who, in the discharge of the various duties which devolve upon him in these relations, must have a more perfect knowledge of the local machinery of the county, and of the principle by which it is worked, than any mere traveller could acquire

from the information of others during his passage through a district with which he had no personal connection.

#### CHARITY AND SOUND POLICY OF STRABANE.

At the close of the summer of 1830, oatmeal and potatoes, which form the principal food of the working people, becoming very dear, the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood of Strabane, subscribed a considerable sum; purchased therewith a large stock of oatmeal in the markets of Liverpool and Glasgow, and selling this out at reduced prices in the town, they thereby prevented the forestaller from raising his meal from two shillings and sixpence the peck (ten pounds) to three shillings, to which price it would undoubtedly have risen in a few days, had it not been for the arrival of the English and Scotch supplies, through the instrumentality of this charity.

By this timely interference of the gentlemen and merchants, (chiefly we believe the latter) oatmeal was soon reduced to the moderate price of one shilling and eight-pence per peck, the farmer and forestaller being obliged to *undersell* the committee of the charity, in order to obtain a market. Other towns in the North of Ireland, having so far followed this example, as to adopt a principle of similar effect; one of the most fearful visitations to which a country can be subjected was happily averted; for a dear summer, producing famine, pestilence, and an atmosphere pregnant with infectious exhalations, is indeed an awful visitation! Let those mercenaries, who cannot be moved by a consideration of the duties of humanity, which they owe to their poorer brethren, take warning. Let them contemplate the recent and numerous examples of infectious maladies, arising from bad food, bad air, and a total absence of the means of cleanliness and comfort, in the persons of the poor; and remove these predisposing causes to infection, before the evil reaches to a certain point, in which that judicious regulation of the non-naturals, that in the first instance would have checked its growth, becomes useless; and the disease raging with

inextinguishable fury, spreads desolation through society, and finally plants its thorn with accumulated force, in the oriental pillow of the thoughtless and unfeeling rich, who, by the exercise of a little timely charity might have checked its progress.

#### MINERALS IN THE MOUNTAINS, &c.

In that part of the Tyrone chain of mountains, under which the town of Strabane reposes, a considerable tract of coal may be supposed to exist, if the following information which we received from Mr. Orr, (a wealthy and respectable merchant of that town) may be relied on as authentic.

The father of this gentleman, who appears to have been a man of some research, had frequently taken with him a scientific friend, with their dogs and guns, as though on shooting expeditions; but in reality for the purpose of ascertaining whether the mountains around Strabane contained certain indications of coal, or any other mineral applicable to purposes of trade. In the progress of these investigations, they discovered what they considered to be infallible proofs of the existence of coal; and to such an extent in a certain district of the mountains, as, in their estimation, fully to justify the outlay of a certain capital. When their minds had been fully satisfied on this subject, the late Mr. Orr waited on the late Lord Erne, (the proprietor of the soil) and offered to give him half the profits, and to incur the whole expense of opening and working these mines, if his lordship would yield the small proportion of land necessary to the perfection of the enterprise. Our informant stated that Lord Erne thought proper, (we would say had the folly, if we spoke as we think) to reject this proposal, but at the same time offered Mr. Orr £500. if he would point out to him the particular tract that contained the indications, but which Mr. Orr (probably piqued at Lord Erne's apparent want, both of liberality and discernment) refused to do.

We know that coal exists, to a considerable extent, in



the county upon which we are now writing. Mines have been long worked in the vicinity of Dungannon and Coal Island, and from a ravine in a mountain near the village of Drumquin (where the coal appeared in large masses) the country people procured on one occasion (as Mr. Sproule in the neighbourhood of Strabane assured us) nearly two tons of excellent quality, without the aid of any other instrument than a sledge and a crow bar.

This mountain was formerly the property of Sir James Galbraith, Bart.; but is now, we understand, in the possession of a Mr. Gordon, a merchant of Belfast.

Mr. Alexander, of Sandville, (the proprietor of extensive slate quarries on one of the Abercorn estates) confirms the general report of coal in this district of Tyrone, as also of charcoal applicable to the manufacture of iron, on the elevated lands above the Giant's Causeway, on the coast of Antrim. He farther observed, that in the townland of Caw, on the eastern bank of the river Foyle, he saw a strong indication of copper near the farm of a Mr. Robinson, on that part of the lands of the see of Derry, which approximate with Ross's bay. Thus many parts of this and the neighbouring counties exhibit indisputable evidences of mineral wealth. The capital and enterprise to work them are the things wanted, together with proper encouragement from the owners of the soil. This encouragement cannot be expected to flow from them, until they have first made themselves acquainted with the dormant treasures of their own properties; and to the necessity that exists for an active system of research, by a geological survey of these properties, we again earnestly call the attention of the landed interest, for their country's sake, and for their own.

#### A LANDSCAPE.

Returning from Sandville to Strabane (as we crossed the country towards the coach road between Dublin and Derry, on which Strabane is situated) one of the prettiest features that we had then seen in the topography of that neighbour-

hood, caught our eye. It was a beautiful and apparently circular elevation, covered with an oakwood from its base to its summit; and rising with interesting dignity above the general level of a plain, richly decorated with ornamental plantations. In our progress to Strabane, we saw at least three more woods of a similar description, on an elevated chain of soil, running nearly parallel with the Dublin and Derry coach road; and all these woods, we were informed, are the property of the house of Abercorn, and have grown spontaneously on these lands. The preservation of these woods, so singularly ornamental to the country (and undoubtedly of considerable value) do great credit to the taste and judgment of the Abercorn family, under whose sheltering wing they have grown up and flourished.

What a pity it is that the ancient owners of those rocky mountains of the north, where oak will grow, and which a ploughshare cannot enter, had not inserted in the interstices of those mountains, the same timber. How well would it have paid their posterity; and how largely would these woods have contributed to beautify our country. You may, however, visit the Belfast mountains, and those of Derry and Donegal, and even that noble mountain in the county of Down, which stands with gigantic majesty over the richly decorated valley of Ravensdale, and forms a grand outline to that incomparable valley. You may visit all these, and find the valleys elegantly ornamented with plantations, and sparkling (like brilliants set in jasper) with villas of the most animating and attractive aspect; but when you raise your eyes to the lofty mountains that enclose these valleys (the proper theatre of wood, and where the sound of an axe should not be heard for a hundred years) you see not a single tree!!!

#### THE TYRONE ABERCORN ESTATE.

This estate is reputed to measure twenty-three English miles in length, and from one to eight in breadth! It is

bounded by the river Foyle, the county of Londonderry, Sir James Bruce's church lands, the Donemana estate, (late Sir John Hamilton's,) and the property of a Mrs. Humphreys, &c.

Of its rents, tenures, classes of soil, or the circumstances of its population, we know nothing but what may be collected from the few local descriptions contained in these reports.

#### MILLTOWN.

This is the seat of the Reverend Stewart Hamilton, and stands within one English mile of Strabane, which is the post town to it, on the old line of road communicating between that town and New Town Stewart, which is also a market and post town in this county.

It comprehends a good dwellinghouse, a neatly planted lawn, and about twelve acres of demesne in high order. It is the private property of Mr. Hamilton, the incumbent of the parish (whose name has been already noticed in our description of Strabane) and was purchased by him on account of its proximity to the principal scene of his duties, for which the house now building on the parish glebe is extremely ill circumstanced, being three English miles distant from Strabane, where a population of 6000 souls call daily for the exercise of the ecclesiastical functions.

#### BURN DENNET BLEACH GREEN.

This little seat of trade is situated on the Abercorn estate, and is held by Mr. Francis O'Neil, of Mount Pleasant, a reputable linen merchant.

It stands in a neighbourhood very much secluded from the public view, near a line of road which opens a passage through this tract of country, for the accommodation of the tenants in these back settlements. Considering that this secluded position is only four miles distant from Strabane, (its post town) we did not conceive that its *aspect* altogether harmonized with the general wealth and beauty of this



section of the country. Contrasting its appearance with that of the country from Strabane to Newtown Stewart, which is watered by the Mourne river, and beautified by divers seats and other conspicuous improvements; or even with that of the wooded hills not far distant from this rude and retired spot; we could not but clearly perceive, when attempting to place it in juxta position with these better dressed portions of the country (in a portrait of the picturesque) that it retired, like a wild Irish girl, rudely from the touch; and when pursued with rapidity in order to catch its outline upon the pencil, that it retreated (like an Indian woman into her North American fastness) so deeply and rapidly into the *shade*, that it became totally impossible to sketch it.

We would therefore strongly recommend Mr. O'Neill (if indeed he has the savage *sure*) to dress and civilize this comparatively rude and uncultivated piece of nature; and when he has tamed, educated, decorated, and made it fit to appear in good company, we shall feel most happy to give it a distinguished place in the best assemblages of its own neighbourhood. Until then, however, we must confess that its only claim to distinction (a very important one by the bye) is that of its useful trade, which embraces an annual bleach of 8 or 10,000 pieces of that class of seven-eighths wide linens, commonly called Coleraines; and which are usually disposed of in a finished state, in the markets of Dublin and London.

This establishment unites with many others of the same kind in the same county, to provide employment and support for many honest and industrious labourers; and after all that may be said about the picturesque (of which nevertheless a true patriot is proud) must be regarded as the best of all objects in the landscapes of a country so deeply destitute of trade and employment for the poor, as that of Ireland.

## URNEY HOUSE.

This house was built by Dr. Fowler, the present bishop of Ossory (the former house attached to this glebe, and which was built by Dr. Beresford, the late Archbishop of Tuam, having been burned down.) It was the seat of the Rev. James Jones, the Rector of Urney, when we visited that county in 1830, and certainly was one of the prettiest church residences in that part of Ireland. It embraces a mansion-house, bordering on the magnificent, and 83 Conyngham acres of glebe land, elegantly planted and improved. It reposes in a valley (watered by the river Finn) under the shadow of Croghan-hill, and other noble elevations in the county of Donegal, which surmount the scene; so that when you lift your eyes from that charming palace, and those planted lawns, to the lofty works of nature above them; and inhale the perfumes of Arabia with which the whole scene is scented; you will naturally enough conclude, that it is good to be admitted through the splendid portals of the church into the well-dressed gardens of that *visible* Elysium; in your passage to what country beyond the river we presume not to say (for we do not like to remind our readers of Luke xvi.) but with *certainly* to that common grave, which is equally the rich man's home, and the poor man's resting-place.

This scene of *sanctity* stands (in the full enjoyment of its own hallowed sweets) on a line of road which opens a communication between Strabane and the village of Claudy; and the valley from Urney to Donaghmore (the name of a still more extensive, but much less beautiful paradise of the church than Urney) being richly cultivated and improved, and watered by the river Finn (which, after washing the eastern bank of Urney demesne, pursues its meandering course through the valley, in view of the traveller, the whole way to Donaghmore) renders the drive from Strabane to this latter less beautiful paradise, extremely interesting.

To the present rich aspect of Urney House, each resident

clergyman has no doubt contributed, in his turn, a certain quota of improvement; but if the traveller may judge from the high and excellent order in which that place appeared in the summer of 1830, it was not more deeply indebted to any of its temporary occupants, for the rich cluster of its existing graces, than to the then existing incumbent; for nothing short of eastern munificence, and eastern grace, could have maintained in such finished perfection the *tout ensemble* of that lovely tithe-scented scene. It would be presumptuous to delude the eye and imagination of the reader with a vain attempt to fill up this brief outline with a minute description of those varied minor graces, which so harmoniously combine to complete the picture of its beauties. These are the *je ne sais quoi*, the indescribable charms, which all who have *tasted* them feel and understand, but which no man (except perhaps the incumbent, who must necessarily *taste* them with a peculiar relish) was ever yet able to communicate in their full perfection to the taste and feeling of another. It is the prerogative of which the church herself is so peculiarly jealous, that she has never permitted the *beneficiaries* of her GRACE, to transfer the same sensitive enjoyment of her favours to a second person; and he who would understand this enjoyment aright, must come under the direct operation of her own *inspiring presence*, which never touched the heart of sensibility with her celestial finger, without feeling chords, *deeply placed in the centre of the instrument*, that tremblingly responded to the sweet and soft dictates of her *silent favour*.

It is true, there are many more wealthy and extensive seats in the episcopal paradise of Ireland than that of Urney; but none that came under our observation in this immediate neighbourhood, so perfectly attractive.

To describe these rich and splendid establishments of the church, as they ought to be described, is a task far beyond the limited resources of any prose pencil. To do them justice, would require the presence of that towering poetic genius, which, having travelled incognito with Lucifer from



the gates of hell, through the trackless and immeasurable space which divides earth from his dominions, witnessed his dialogue with Uriel the Angel of the Sun, his subtle and silent descent upon the garden of Eden, his final victory over the innocence and felicity of our first parents; and then returning into this world of woe, published that awful primeval tragedy (so often and successfully repeated in courts, countries, churches, and families) known by the name of a "Paradise" confer'd and "lost!"—This is the sort of genius which could trace the progress of our Irish ecclesiastical paradise, through all its celestial revolutions; and to such we leave the execution of that finished picture, which would now prove useful to the British Empire; while, in the conscious inadequacy of our talents to such a task, we have only presumed to touch with our pencil point, a single segment in the mighty circle of its dominion; and that without intending the least personal reflection upon the present generation of the clergy, the generality of whom are men of benevolence and virtue, and by no means chargeable with the errors of that system by which their country suffers.

Strabane, from which Urney is about three miles distant, is the post and market-town to this interesting residence.

#### SHANNON.

This is the seat of James C. Ball, Esq., and comprehends a neat cottage, and 160 Conyngham acres of upland, arable, and bog; 100 acres being of the former description, and the remainder, chiefly an improved bog applicable to meadow.

According to our information, this seat has been held by the Ball family on the Erne estate for several generations; but the family property, which they hold under a grant of Charles II., is situated in the Barony of Strabane, and contains about 105 acres of an argillaceous soil, which the present proprietor farms on his own account. These lands are situated on the mail-coach road between Derry and Dublin (within four Irish miles of Strabane, and eight of Derry) and in the opposite direction they are bounded by

the river Foyle. The Burdennet river also passes through them, so that they are well watered; and as in certain parts they contain brick and pottery clay, they are hence applicable to purposes of trade, as well as those of agriculture. The town of Strabane, from which this seat is about four miles distant, is the post-town to it.

#### MULVOYNE.

This is the seat of James Richard Auchinleck, Esq. an officer in his Majesty's navy. It comprehends a handsome cottage (erected, with great taste and judgment, on the summit of a beautiful elevation above the public coach-road, communicating between Strabane and Newtown Stewart) and 100 Conyngham acres of a soil well adapted to corn and green crops, and we have no doubt to the growth and perfection of ornamental trees.

It is an interesting and healthful summer residence, admirably situated for the enjoyment of pure air and open prospect; and is held in perpetuity on the Abercorn estate by the present occupant.

When the plantations and other improvements commenced on this demesne have been completed (and we would strongly recommend the substitution of whitewash or fine plaster for the present muddy colour of the cottage walls; as white is undoubtedly a better combination with the verdure of nature, and particularly with the foliage of trees, than murky *mud*.) When these improvements, we say, have been completed, Mulvoyne will be a feature of considerable attraction on the populous and respectable road just noticed; and being so contiguous to the market towns of Strabane and Newtown Stewart, it will prove as profitable in reference to its produce, as it is interesting to the Irish patriot, whose feelings are as much identified with every new addition to the beauties and improvements, as with every new advance in the constitutional march of the rights and liberties of his country.

This seat stands about two Irish miles from Newton

Stewart, and four or five from Strabane, which is the post town to it.

#### DEER PARK.

This is the seat of Dr. John Irvine, held by him in perpetuity on an estate of the late Earl of Blessington, on which the market and post town of Newtown Stewart is also situated.

The Deerpark embraces a pretty cottage, standing on a lofty site over a richly cultivated valley, and commanding a highly interesting glimpse of the river Mourne, pursuing its meandering course through that town to Newtown Stewart; as also of those magnificent objects in the mountain scenery of Tyrone, distinguished from the other members of the mountain family, by the interesting appellations of Betsy Bell and Mary Gray.

But in addition to the pleasures of prospect, this cottage scene can also boast some ruins of antiquity. The vestige of a castle, said to have been occupied in early times by a branch of the O'Nial (now O'Neil) family, maintains a conspicuous position there. Its family comforts are also amply provided for, by a farm of more than fifty acres of mountain, arable, and bog; now rapidly advancing in agricultural improvement, by the taste and industry of the present resident; and from its proximity to a good market town, this cottage farm is obviously well circumstanced for the sale of its agricultural produce.

Deer park stands on the lofty elevation already noticed, within a short distance of the coach road communicating between Strabane and Omagh, by Newtown Stewart, and within one English mile of the last of these towns, which is the post town to it.

#### CROSH HOUSE.

This is the seat of Alex. Wm. Colhoun, Esq., and comprehends a neat country lodge, and a tract of several hundred acres of the Abercorn estate, held in perpetuity for



some generations past at a small chief rent, by the family of the present resident.

The elevated lands are pregnant with limestone; and a large tract of bog being included in the property, the latter is evidently well circumstanced for agricultural improvement, of which, lime and peat, are well known to be two valuable elements, when properly combined, and applied to the improvement of the Uplands.

These lands are bounded, on one side, by the river Mourne, and are situated on a line of road which opens a communication between Newtown Stewart and Plumbbridge, in this county. Distant from the former, which is the post town to Crosh-house, one mile.

#### PARISH OF ARDSTRAW.

The Rev. Dr. Nash, (formerly S. F. of Trinity College, Dublin,) is the rector of this parish; which is, we understand, in the gift of the college of Dublin, by whom he was invested. He has now no interest in his late fellowship; but his parish is reputed to be worth £2000. per annum, a certain proportion of which he is said to apply to charitable uses. The person who collects his tithe also informed us, that the farmers in this parish hold the latter from him by mutual agreement, at a rate not exceeding one shilling and sixpence per acre for land of the middle class. This however was the established practice, in many parts of the north of Ireland, long before the tithe composition law was enacted; and how largely a *timely* adoption of this rule contributed to the peace of this province, and to that kind and friendly feeling which should always exist between the clergy and the people, it is needless to remark. Newtown-Stewart is the post town to this glebe.

#### GALLONEY HOUSE.

This respectable creation of Mr. John Smyth, (on the Abercorn estate) comprehends a noble new edifice, and sixty eight Conyngham acres of a soil originally poor, but

now brought to a high degree of perfection, by the hand of industry and scientific improvement. Mr. Smyth has a perpetual interest in these lands; and indeed nothing less would justify the great outlay of capital, by which this respectable feature of the Abercorn estate has been produced and perfected.

The house stands on a noble elevation above that beautiful valley which is watered by the Mourne river, and opens a communication between the towns of Strabane and Newtown Stewart. The prospect over that valley to the neighbouring country is extensive, and exhibits a richly cultivated scene; and in reference to the sale of agricultural produce, the latter market town being only five miles distant, and Strabane, a great mart for corn, only two, Galloney House is obviously well circumstanced for a farmers trade.

Mr. Smyth gives his labourers one shilling per day *the whole year round*, and employment as constant as the state of the weather will admit; the consequence is, that those who entered his service without cow or pig, are now able to purchase and maintain these necessary articles of household comfort; and to suppose that a benevolent master is not well paid for these acts of justice, by the affections and services of a grateful people, is to display an utter ignorance of human nature.

Strabane, (where Mr. Smyth once resided as an extensive merchant, and where he is now succeeded by his son) is the post town to this seat.

#### GLENCUSH.

This is the denomination of a townland in the barony of Strabane, and is the seat of Mr. Robert Mc Crae, whose family for some generations have held those lands on the Dunnamanagh estate, late the property of Sir John Stewart Hamilton, Bart.

The lands in Mr. Mc Crae's possession, include a cottage farm in a state of high improvement (on which he and his

family reside) with a small estate of several townlands adjacent to it. The soil is said to be composed for the most part, of a light gravel surface, well adapted to oat crops, and producing remarkably *early* crops of corn when properly cultivated.

The river Dennet passes through these lands, and forms a boundary to them on the south; and, in its progress, it is said to exhibit falls of sufficient force, to effect the movement of machinery for trading purposes.

Londonderry, which has been selected by the proprietor of Glencush, as his post town, stands seven Irish miles north from thence, Strabane five miles S. W., and Glencush is situated on one of various county roads, which open a communication with the mail coach road between Dublin and Derry, from the nearest point of which road it is about two miles distant.

#### CORCREEVY.

This is the seat and property of Matthew James Burnside, Esq. It comprehends a respectable feature of improvement in a portrait of the district of Five Mile Town, and is situated on the coach road communicating between that town and Enniskillen, the capital of Fermanagh.

Its history may be given in a few words. A handsome house and lawn; a neatly planted demesne of about eighty Irish acres; and a fee simple estate of about 250 acres of a valuable soil, part thereof being a dry limestone gravel, and the residue a soft and spewy moor, accommodated with a small quantity of turbary for fuel.

Five Mile Town, in its immediate neighbourhood, is the post town to it.

#### OMAGH.

Omagh, which is the capital of this county, has a good weekly market, (that is, a good deal of linen cloth is sold there) and a tolerably extensive general *retail* business; but it is neither so populous, nor so well circumstanced for



trade, as Strabane; which, by virtue of its water carriage to Derry, and through that port to England and elsewhere, carries on a pretty smart import and export trade.

We have not seen any census of the population of these towns. That of Strabane, (as we already noticed in our description of that place) is estimated at 6000 persons, and from a sharp view of Omagh, we calculated 4000 to be its utmost amount.

Omagh, although the capital of Tyrone, appeared to us to stand in only the third rank of the trade and population of its towns. Strabane we conceived to be the first, Dungannon the second, and this the third. In the linen market of Dungannon we believe there is much more business done than in that of Omagh, and in the general retail trade, at least an equal amount; and Dungannon has the advantage of a pretty convenient communication with the port of Newry, chiefly by water; while in reference to its population, we think, from the area which the town covers, it must exceed that of Omagh by some hundred *souls*.

But if Omagh has only the honour of standing in the third rank of trade and population; in the weight of *mendicity* with which it is burthened, (if we may judge from the multitude of *able bodied* beggars and their families that we saw there in two days only) it has no competitor among the towns of this county.

We could not command leisure to count the numerous trains of these poor people that infested Omagh on the days to which we have adverted; but we well remember that the impression produced upon our mind by the imposing array which we then witnessed, was this; that these visiters of Omagh would have been found sufficient to colonise the most considerable of our foreign settlements in a very short period of time; and that if the unemployed peasantry and their families, thus thrown upon the farmers and shopkeepers for support, shall continue to multiply, while these latter, in their own defence, continue rapidly emigrating from the scene of infection, leaving all that is wretched and

miserable behind them—unless we say, the British government alight upon a better mode of managing Ireland, than this, the final result of this system will prove deeply injurious to England herself. Would it not therefore be vastly better to allow Ireland to avail herself of her own deep and almost exhaustless resources, for the employment of her people, by permitting her to legislate upon her own soil for this special purpose, than to make the slender measure of her capital, and the physical energies of her people, tributary to the wealth and power of foreign states, upon the one hand, while a rapidly increasing population, almost totally unprovided for, are made to eat like a canker worm into the few remaining resources of the capital and industry of the country, upon the other? It is true a large proportion of Irish emigrants proceed from hence to Canada, a British settlement; but what an infinitely large proportion of Irish capital and Irish artizans have been forced into foreign countries by British policy, exclusive of the numerous families now settled in the United States of North America, and contributing to enrich that new country by their capital and labours! This to be sure is very well for the people who have succeeded in escaping from the all desolating plague of poverty and infamy, with which their unhappy country has been visited; and doubly well for the states which have profited by English policy! But what of that policy, sayest thou Lycurgus; or what Solon; or what William Penn; or what Fenelon, thou classic founder of Salentum; since in the range of your political philosophy, we cannot trace this policy, with the sort of glass (we think not jaundiced) that is now before us?

Omagh stands in the centre of a tolerably well cultivated country, on a property of the Earl of Belmore, (the present governor of Jamaica) and which, according to our information, was part of a tract of country extending from Omagh to Enniskillen, formerly in possession of the Archdale family, (who have a property still remaining in this section of the country) and disposed of by an ancestor of

General Archdale to an ancestor of Lord Belmore, one of whose sons, the Honourable Henry Corry, is now member for this county.

#### MOUNT PLEASANT.

This new creation of the Rev. Mr. Crigan, stands on a small estate which he possesses in the neighbourhood of Omagh, and is a very interesting feature of beauty and improvement in a topographic portrait of that town and neighbourhood.

It is a purchase of the Rev. Resident, and has been converted by him from a *wild boggy moor* into its present well-merited character of a handsome Irish villa.

It comprehends a new and respectable edifice, on the summit of a gentle elevation, which commands a noble prospect of the neighbouring country; and about 100 acres of a well reclaimed demesne, very grassy, and apparently well calculated for oats, flax, and every species of green crop for cattle feeding; and from the flourishing appearance of the young plantations, it is evident that no soil can be better adapted to the growth of trees of the light and ornamental classes.

The Struel river forms a boundary to this property on one side, and a part of the estate of the late Earl of Blessington (richly wooded) on the other.

The prospect from hence to the Tyrone mountains, over the plantations of Lisanally, and the richly wooded demesne of Mount Joy forest, is incomparably fine. In fact, as the residence of a country gentleman, in the immediate vicinity of a good market town, we know nothing on a limited scale to exceed this seat; and the beauty, order, and harmony, which have been called into being from a wild and uncultivated moor, reflect a high distinction upon the taste and understanding which produced them.

Mount Pleasant stands within one mile of Omagh, (the



post town to it) immediately on the coach road which opens a communication between that town and Derry.

#### NEWGROVE.

Newgrove, the seat and fee simple estate of Samuel Galbraith, Esq., comprehends a large and most respectable family edifice (converted from an ancient farm house into its present equally useful but more distinguished character) and about 120 Conyngham acres, chiefly of a hay and grass farm, but with a certain proportion devoted to corn crops; to all of which we understand these lands are admirably adapted.

As Newgrove in its present form has no just pretension to the picturesque — as the tame and level scene of which it is a component part, does not present a very strong and prominent ground work to the pencil or chisel of the artist — and as, until a very recent period, it was not the residence of the present generation of the Galbraith family, but held from the commencement of their reign, or during a long interregnum, by tenants under them; we must hence regard it as a place, on which Art (in defiance of Nature) has only drawn her first rude outline; and which cannot become a seat of as high respectability as the finger of Art can make it, until the following constituents of her Newgrove picture, have received the last touches of her skilful pencil; every stroke of which, from the lofty obelisk that is seen through a close defile in the opening wood, and the wood fringed eye of the crystal lake that brightly sparkles in the distant lawn, to the porter's lodge, the handsome sweeping avenue, the lightly sporting skreen, and the circular out-post wisely planted upon the distant hill; are, one and all, conceived, arranged, and executed on principles conformable to the philosophy of TASTE; and separate from which, no work of art intended for embellishment, can mock the pure and unsullied eye of nature, or even amuse the fancy of the beholder, with a good resemblance of her spirit and her

works. This may be regarded as that science of the true landscape gardener, separate from which the pretender to his art (however he may work as a mechanic for his bread) is no master.

Hence for the perfection of the Newgrove picture, time must be given for the young plantations to grow and flourish. The new dwellinghouse and offices, with corresponding gardens, must be finished. The opening of two splendid approaches in the *contemplation* of the proprietor, to be adapted to a new and splendid line of road, in the *contemplation* of the county, must be completed. And these, with handsome gate houses, good fences, and an elegant subdivision of the lands, will no doubt do much towards constituting Newgrove what it ought to be, a very respectable seat on the surface of this county.

We could obtain no information of minerals or mineral springs upon those lands; but they have the advantage of being situated in the centre of an agricultural and manufacturing district, at once peaceful and industrious (benefits, the full value of which can only be known and felt by occupiers of land in the disturbed districts) on a line of road communicating between Omagh and Irvinestown; and the former, from which we believe it is about six miles distant, (but we find no reference to this in the notes before us) is the post town to it.

#### SESKINORE LODGE, SESKINORE, AND MULLAGHMORE.

Seskinore Lodge, the seat of Mrs. Perry, (relict of the late George Perry, Esq.) is part and parcel of the Seskinore estate, and comprehends a neat and fashionable lodge, a tastefully planted lawn, and about sixty Irish acres of a farm, well adapted to the growth of flax and corn crops, and to that of garden vegetables and ornamental trees. The demesne however lies low, and the prospect from the lodge is exclusively confined to the little beauties of the home view; in which the rose, the sweet William, and the sweet brier,

seem to vie, which shall diffuse the larger proportion of its fragrance through the surrounding scene.

The ancient residence of this family, was at a place called Mullaghmore, (most likely the Irish name of the townland on which the old family house is situated) but denominated Perrymount, during their occupation of the place; and this with the beautiful village of Seskinore, erected by the Perry family, in the immediate neighbourhood of the lodge, are parts and parcels of the same property; but of the extent of this property, its natural history, or the names of the townlands composing it, beyond what has been just mentioned, we know nothing. Some who profess (what we do not) to have a deep and extensive acquaintance with the Irish language, maintain that Seskinore, or more properly Sheskinore, is a combination of two Irish words which (by a free translation) may be made to signify "the rich or golden soil of thistles," the thistle weed, when shooting up in large quantities being the sure indication of a rich and marrowy soil. Whether this be admissible as a free translation, or whether it diverges too far from the literal meaning of the parent *root* to come within the limits of a just literary licence, we presume not to say; but as the best that we could make out we give it, and let the reader who finds fault with our translation provide us with a better.

These various respectable features of the Perry property, stand within a short walk (perhaps an English mile or more) of the great coach road between Dublin and Derry, by Omagh, which is the post town to them, and from which they are about five Irish miles distant.

N.B. A school for the education of the Protestant children of the neighbourhood, has been established in or near the village of Seskinore, by Mrs. Perry, and when we passed through that country in 1830, it was well attended, and very satisfactorily conducted by Mr. Halcoo, a young man educated for this office by the Education Society, in Kildare-street, Dublin.



## THE VESEY ESTATE.

This property is situated on a county road communicating between Fintona and Ballygawley, two market and post towns in this county, at the distance of about two miles from the former, which is the post town to the new family seat called Vesey Hall; and from Omagh, the capital of the county, about six miles.

Some years ago this tract of land was in a very rude and imperfect state; but since it came into the possession of Dr. Vesey, the present proprietor, a course of improvements in building, planting, and agriculture, (which in a few years will amount to a new creation of the place) have been rapidly advancing this property towards the ne plus ultra of its capable perfection.

The soil in this section of Tyrone is, generally speaking, by no means of the best class. In many places it is soft and spewy, but still when drained and properly improved, it will produce very tolerable crops of oats, flax, grass, potatoes, and other green crops; and trees of the light and ornamental kinds, flourish, both in the mountain lands, and in the moors. Nevertheless many parts of this neighbourhood have a wild and unplanted appearance; the fences are frequently very bad; many of the ditches are bald, and totally destitute of quickset hedges.—In a word, the timber bears no proportion to the farms; and what is still worse, the temperature of trade has sunk far below zero.—The manufacturing farmer, who once derived succour from this latter source, is now driven by his necessities to look more for the means of procuring an immediate return for his outlay from the sale of his crop, than of advancing the future interests of his family by the enrichment of his land. The soil, consequently, suffers in its interests. The demand for labour remains stationary, or perhaps retrogrades, while the candidates for employment rapidly increase; and the end of all is, that mendicity follows, as a natural and inevitable consequence of the causes which conduct to it. In this state of things,

it is by no means surprising, that every movement of the country gentleman in the march of building, planting, and cultivation, is hailed with joy by the people of the country, as an act of temporary salvation ; while the improver himself is very naturally regarded by those people as a pilot sticking to the ship in its worst circumstances, and giving indisputable evidence to all around him, of the skill and industry he is exerting to weather the storm, and of his inflexible determination to sink or swim with the vessel of his property and country.

This being a true picture of many parts of this once flourishing province, it is by no means surprising that we yield a page of this humble volume with great pleasure, to notice the improvements that Dr. Vesey and his son are now carrying on at Vesey Hall ; and, in the execution of which, they have found a good deal of employment for a proportion of the labouring poor in their immediate neighbourhood.

The Vesey estate embraces about 1,200 acres of the soil thus imperfectly described ; and of this a certain proportion has been reclaimed from bog ; a large section of the residue is undergoing a process of improved cultivation ; a noble new edifice has been erected on the summit of a lovely elevation in the centre of a semi-amphitheatre of hills ; these hills are tastefully decorated with young plantations, and the loftiest and most lordly of the little chain is surmounted by a temple, which acts as a sentinel to the scene, disputing with Boreas the passage of the northern hills. This temple, in the progress of the improvements, is to receive a castellated form ; but from the summit of such a noble hill, standing over a deep and lovely valley, richly decorated by the finger of the architect and planter, and enclosing half that valley with its base, a lofty spire raising its spheric cone above the wooded vale, and presenting its picturesque point to the eye of the traveller on the distant roads, would be an infinitely nobler appendage to Vesey Hall, than any alteration of the building that would not (as a *top-stone* to

the *whole*,) be surmounted by this picturesque spire, in the climax of its ascending beauties.

The country around Vesey Hall, having much that is rude and offensive to exhibit to the eye, the selection of a modest, but beautiful elevation in the valley, for the site of the new building, surrounded by the hills just noticed, was most judicious; as from this position the prospect of that rude country is completely excluded, and every spice of the picturesque existing in the geography of the place (to which the plantations have been admirably adapted) is presented to the eye of the visiter in its most engaging aspect; while from the noble variety of hill and dale which the home scene presents, with the house reflecting its beauties upon the vale beneath, the circumambient hills elegantly planted, and the whole surmounted (as we trust it will) by the spire of a temple on the loftiest of those hills which protect the valley from the country's rude embrace; we are assured that in a few years hence, when the plantations are full grown, the traveller who enters and beholds the lovely congregated features of Vesey Hall, thus elegantly grouped, will pronounce it to be the most perfectly finished feature of retired beauty, of which this section of Tyrone can boast; and on a scale so compact and comprehensive, that the eye is unconscious of exertion while revelling in the picturesque pleasures of this little panoramic scene, which presses with indescribable vigour and activity upon the organ of enjoyment, even in a first embrace.

The demesne includes about 120 acres of the property thus planted and improved. A small rivulet, called the Blackwater, (upon which a noble flour-mill was being erected by the proprietor in 1830,) forms a boundary to this property on the south-east, and on the other sides it is bounded by the estates of Mrs. Perry, the Earl of Belmore, Robt. Waring Maxwell, Esq., Rev. Francis Jervis, and Hugh Gore Edwards, Esq.



## ECCLESVILLE AND FINTONA.

When we visited Ecclesville in 1830, it was then the seat of the late lamented John Dickson Eccles, Esq. proprietor of the Fintona estate, and a country gentleman of sterling worth, though of plain and unassuming manners.

The demesne embraces about 250 acres of this property, lightly and ornamentally planted; but from its comparatively low position, it commands no prospect of the surrounding country; a fact in its topographic history, which need not be much lamented, since that country exhibits but little of the picturesque, and all that is necessary to a decent domestic landscape, may be found within the confines of Ecclesville demesne.

The house, which stands at a short distance from the public road, at the bottom of a valley formed by gently sloping hills, is a plain but noble edifice (the expressive type of the founder's honest mind, where the rich streams of benevolence, flowing through a retired valley to that invisible ocean, where they are now centred for ever, felt too deeply their own intrinsic worth, to court that sweet-smelling cowslip of popular applause, "which to-day is, and to-morrow is cast into the oven,") and to this has been added all those plain and useful appendages of a family residence, which are necessary to decent rank and to substantial comfort.

Fintona, a market and post town on this estate (which has several shops, and does some business in the corn trade) may be regarded as the capital of the property. It stands on a public road a little elevated above the valley of Ecclesville, of which it commands an imperfect view; and although the appearance of this town is not remarkably attractive, we understand a good deal of business is done there; to which the policy of granting to *improving* tenants, leases in perpetuity, of houses and plots for building, must largely contribute; while a similar indulgence to persons of neither property nor talent, would mar the improvement of the

town, and inflict a needless wound upon the interests of the landlord. To this admirable plan of giving the tenant a perpetual interest in his town holding, we would recommend (in every possible case) the addition of a few acres of land for the accommodation of his town establishment. This land, being held at a moderate rent on a lease of lives or years, would have a favourable influence on the interests of the whole estate, as the value of farms approximating with it would advance in an exact ratio with the wealth and population of the neighbouring town; and we hope this also is the policy of the Eccles family.

The valley of Ecclesville is separated from the town of Fintona by a water called the Casheron river, which passes through the Fintona estate. On this a corn mill has been erected for the accommodation of the tenantry, and a site for another mill with a fall of from seven to ten feet is said to exist upon the same river, and of course presents to some enterprising man of business, an inducement to form a bleaching or manufacturing establishment at that place. If the successors of the late Mr. Eccles follow his example, we have no doubt they will be found ready to give all due encouragement to this and every other instrument of employment to the poor that may be found to exist in their immediate neighbourhood; for from all that we could learn of the character of that lamented gentleman, as a landlord, a magistrate, and a man, his sudden removal by death, while we were travelling in his native county, was felt to be a public loss; and as such was very justly and generally deplored, by the poor and by the public.

#### SPUR ROYAL CASTLE.

For the origin of this curious title we were referred (in the absence of the proprietor, who was in France) to the *indented form* of the castle; but this not only falls far short of a reason for the *pomp* of such a title, but is so weak and whimsical an account of the cause producing it, that in justice to the individual (whoever he may have been) from whom

this strange cognomen was derived, we must suppose that it had its origin in a *royal spur* found upon these lands, (and which might have been lost there in ancient days, in some sanguinary conflict of the Irish kings with their Danish or English invaders) as, upon any other principle, we are at a loss to know how the sanity of the nomenclator, and the consistent derivation of his title, can be defended and established.

It is the seat of a branch of the respectable family of Bunbury, which settled upon this property prior to the English revolution, and at the period of our visit, a new and magnificent castle (intended, we suppose, from its peculiar form, to *perpetuate the memory of the spur*) was then being erected by an ingenious architect of the name of Warren, by whom the palace of Clogher, and other conspicuous buildings, were also planned and conducted.

Of the extent and natural history of this property, or the circumstances of its tenantry, we could procure but little information; but it forms such a splendid feature of beauty and improvement in the view of the traveller on the public road between the villages of Augher and Clogher in this county, as to call forth his admiration, and direct his enquiries to the place.

We found the castle standing on a spacious and richly wooded demesne, with a lake at the foot of a lovely mount in the front view, to which the family are said to be as deeply indebted for a liberal supply of trout, pike, perch, and eel, as the home view for one of the most vivid and sparkling features of its domestic beauty. This lake is supplied by a stream from the black water river, which turns a corn mill in its progress; and besides these waters, a rapid mountain stream descends into those lands, and sometimes overflowing its banks, visits the crops with an unwelcome irrigation. This, however, we should suppose, might be prevented by embankment, and the stream even rendered useful for the watering of a stock farm, or for the establish-



ment of yarn bleach greens in that linen country, by a proper direction of its current.

From an elevation on the road just noticed, which stands over the castle and demesne, this seat with its neighbouring landscape, and noble mountain outline, are seen in their best aspect.

Spur royal castle is situated about two miles from Clogher, and five from Aughnaclay, which is the post town to it.

#### THE RAVELLA ESTATE.

This is the property of Colonel Montgomery Moore, who resides in France. It comprehends about 6000 Irish plantation acres, besides 1000 acres of a mountain tract, now not let for more than about two shillings per acre, though abounding with lime for manure, turbary for fuel, and perhaps pregnant with minerals of immense value.

The family seat called Garvey House, the present residence of Mr. James Montgomery, (the agent) comprehends 160 acres of the Ravella estate, planted and improved; and to his name might be added, those of a long list of respectable tenants and substantial freeholders, scattered over the entire face of the Ravella property.

There is a valuable spa here, resorted to for scorbutic and other diseases of the blood.

Garvey house is situated on the coach road communicating between Enniskillen and Aughnaclay, by Clogher, at the distance of about two English miles from the latter, which is the post town to it.

#### KILLYFADDY HOUSE.

This is the seat of Robert Warren Maxwell, Esq., a magistrate for this county; and a most modern and magnificent feature it is, of a noble property which this gentleman (who was residing in France, we believe, at the period of our visit to this country) possesses in the neighbourhood of Clogher, which is the post town to it, and from which this family seat is about two miles distant.

With the extent and boundaries of the Killyfaddy estate we are totally unacquainted ; and of its geological resources we know but little. The demesne, however, which forms its most obvious and distinguished feature, (and which, with its infantile plantations, a new and beautiful mansion house, and other modern improvements, give it altogether the appearance of a newly created place) embraces between 3 and 400 acres under lawn, farm lands, and young plantations, ornamentally divided and disposed. The superb new edifice and offices just noticed, stand on a green level lawn, (richly decked with the furniture of art and nature) and unite with it, and with the road from Omagh to Clogher, (which sweeps around this lovely lawn, in a beauteous and apparently rapid circle) to remind the traveller of the Roman circus and the Grecian games, to which that extensive and richly decorated lawn would be admirably adapted. Being thus associated with classic *imaginations*, the beauties of this newly created scene, are viewed with great pleasure, in a drive from the capital of the county to the town of Clogher.

The young plantations of this seat are judiciously adapted to the wild and romantic geography of the neighbouring lands (to which the level lawn of Killyfaddy house forms a striking contrast) and the property at large includes a tract of mountain, whose hidden treasures are as little known to the public, as those of the other numerous mountain tracts in this province, of which no geological survey has been yet executed.

We collected so much of the natural history of this place as to ascertain, that a tract of turbary sufficient to accommodate the property with fuel for a limited period of time, is attached to it ; as also a small portion of lime stone, the best of all minerals for the farmer ; but beyond these we could obtain no authentic information of its resources.

Before our final departure from this section of the country, we had an opportunity of seeing farther specimens of this property, on a line of road which communicates between

Fintona and the village of Augher. Here our attention was drawn (and very gratifyingly in a country badly wooded and by no means picturesque) to the appearance and circumstances of two farms on this estate, which deserve to be noticed; more particularly if the improvements on these farms may be regarded as the effects of a just and honourable policy by which the whole property is governed.

The first of these farms which attracted our attention, was that of Joseph Wallace, of Ballaghneed. We were proceeding to another farm on that estate, when the richly wooded fields of Joseph Wallace, on the left hand side of the road, (a little elevated above the valley through which we were passing) caught our eye; and from the notorious unfrequency of such appearances on the ordinary farms in this part of Ulster, we regarded the neatly divided, newly mown, and richly wood sheltered fields of Ballaghneed, as the indications of our approach towards the comfortably sheltered seat of a country gentleman of small fortune; until the honest old farmer and his son (who were working in one of those fields on the road side) in answer to our enquiries about the planter and proprietor of the place, gave us the necessary information; and having assured us that the timber which we saw, and which himself or his father had planted, were never registered; we hence inferred, either that the law which now secures the tenant's interest in the timber which he puts down, did not exist when those trees were planted; or that the tenantry on this estate had extraordinary confidence in the honour of the Maxwell family; or lastly, that old Wallace, or his father (who planted those trees) must have been a very good natured fool, to take all this trouble for the benefit of a landlord, without whose express permission they could not cut down as much timber as would roof their farm house, or even make a handle for their spade.

The other farm we have alluded to (and to which we were then proceeding) goes by the name of Leslee, and is in the possession of Mr. John Carson, who holds not only this farm under Mr. Maxwell, (who is the Lord of the Manor of Kil-



lyfaddy) but also the office of Seneschal of the Manor, or judge of small debts: and certainly if this cottage farm be a fair specimen of the policy by which the whole of the Killyfaddy estate is governed, that policy must be liberal and sound; for no land in the occupation of a tenant, exhibiting the same marks of high cultivation and cottage comfort (even although destitute of wood) as that of Leslee, would have risen to its present state of improvement, under a narrow and oppressive system of short leases and grinding rents. But we recollect that Mr. Carson is not exactly dependent upon his farm for his means of improvement (being an extensive butter merchant in the English trade) and also that he holds office under the lord of this soil; and hence, in an estimate of the policy by which the tenantry in this manor are made prosperous and happy, or miserable and mentally degraded, more general and extensive premises must be sought for, than those which are provided by the farm of Leslee; and to such premises as these (extending our observation to Irish estates in general) we refer (for a certain proportion of the complicated causes of Irish misfortune) the British political economists, whose eyes (better late than *never*) have been at length opened to the indispensable necessity of uniting England to Ireland by *moral ties*. For this wise and only durable result of a legislative union of the two countries, a union of the tenantry of Ireland to their landlords, in the bonds of a *well founded family affection and enlightened sense of mutual duty and interest*, is perhaps a good and useful preparative; and as such we recommend it to the serious attention of those absentees, who regarding their Irish estates as a mere draw farm essential to their foreign establishments, care nothing about the feelings or interests of their tenants; but repose exclusive confidence for the security of their Irish incomes, in the policy and the steel of England, which though useful auxiliaries of a well regulated system, are no certain guarantee against the present disorders and final political results of a wicked and contemptuous neglect of the obvious duties

which men of their station owe to the country from which they draw their support. So far as the information which a short visit enabled us to procure, could be depended upon, we found the rents of this estate to be extremely moderate, and the tenures good; these latter extending from three lives or twenty-one years, to three lives or thirty-one, as the circumstances of the case appeared to justify; and this, in every part of Ireland where the tenant has not unlimited confidence in the established principles of his landlord's family, is a policy *essential to improvement* (and one to which an honest and industrious tenant is well entitled; and no wise landlord will give countenance or support to any other) for it is not here as it is in England, where, if our information be correct, the tenantry at large repose confidence in their landlord's justice, and in the established customs of their country; where an honest and punctual tenant, it is said, is never dispossessed, or his farm (as in many parts of Ireland) set up as an article of sale to the highest bidder; where the comfort and prosperity of the tenant are as carefully consulted, as the rent-roll of the landlord, the improvement of his estate, and the wealth and permanent tranquillity of the country (these component parts of a common system of happiness and justice, which are all naturally and indissolubly bound up together) and where the tenant is so perfectly certain of a reasonable interest in his farm, under all changes of circumstance, that it is nearly a matter of indifference to him, whether he hold by a long lease or a short one, or even by a mere title of possession; since the rent is generally so regulated as to leave him a living profit for the cultivation of his land; and where if any landlord were sufficiently iniquitous to dispossess an honest tenant of his holding, upon slight and frivolous pretences, the latter could bring his action for every penny he had expended in useful improvements, and would receive from the juries of his country, as he ought to do, a verdict for the full amount.

## STRAUGHROY COTTAGE.

This is the designation of a cottage farm held by Mr. James Buchanan, on the Blessington estate, a short distance from the town of Omagh; and although in the more highly improved districts of Down and Antrim, it would justly be regarded as a poor and wretched specimen of cottage beauty; yet in that of Tyrone, which is so much less wealthy and embellished, it constitutes a pretty fair medium specimen of the general scale of rural improvement in the plain and humble homesteads of the county.

This rude rural residence owed but little to the finger of art, when we walked from Omagh to see it in the Autumn of 1830. A staunch stone cottage (capable of being rendered comfortable at a small expense) together with a small tan yard, garden, orchard and offices (on a valuable freehold of forty acres, Irish plantation measure) might then be regarded as the sum total of its existing improvements.

To the bounty of nature, however, Straughroy stands deeply indebted for the sweet sequestered vale, in which these rude *leathern conveniences* have been erected by the honest tanner who dips his skins into the muddy waters of that place; and who having fixed the children of his people upon a *good strong footing* in their own neighbourhood, cares perhaps but little for the feast with which nature has provided him in this charming scene, or for the fortunate accident that has thrown him on the borders of Mount Joy forest, (the most splendid assemblage of wood in that part of Ireland) and placed him in the possession of a pretty domestic landscape (and oh! what a Turk this tanner must be if he have no taste for these enjoyments) in which the picturesque seat of the Rev. Mr. Crigan, (the subject of a former description) is, next to that of Mount Joy forest, the most distinguished work of art that blends with the beauties of nature in this scene.

Straughroy communicates with the great leading road between Dublin and Derry, by an old straight avenue



which disclaims all ornament, and has nought but the verdure of nature, the beauties of landscape, and the charms of health and convenience, to recommend it to notice. To the mere farmer and trader, this last advantage will be the sole consideration, but the philosophic admirer of nature's *solitude* and nature's scenes, will find in the *sequestered position* of this old avenue—in its *ample space*—in the *views* which it commands—and in the *broad green sod* which his foot traverses, while his eye feasts upon the Autumn's evening scene, other sources of gratitude and joy. The sun descending in his golden vestment to paint the western landscape with its richest evening tints—the deep green of nature around him—the rich and varied foilage of the forest—the certain indications of wealth and plenty exhibited by the neighbouring villas—the marks of humble comfort and contentment stamped upon the cottages (of the good landlord) scattered o'er the plain—all these will unite with the song of the milkmaid, and the jocund whistle of the peasant (gaily repairing to their respective homes after the labours of the day) and with the melody of a thousand songsters in the neighbouring woods, to call his heart to gratitude and his eye to sensibility, while participating in that silent but sublime carnival of nature, which the sun presents to his enjoyment on the evening of an Autumn day, from the long green avenue of this lowly sequestered spot.

Some readers may feel astonished that a place of little comparative importance, should give birth to reflections on the sublime and beautiful of nature in the Autumn's evening scene; but we beg to remind these admirers of the **MAGNIFICENT**, that our reflections have long flowed in the channel of our country's improvement; and although we behold with lively emotions of pleasure, every splendid domicile on the surface of our native land; still it is not the princely palaces of Ireland, but the cottages and homesteads scattered over the whole face of that country, which constitute the surer test of its advancement in civilization and the useful arts. To this truth we cannot too frequently call the atten-

tion of our lords in Italy and France; whether by a portrait of facts which disgrace their country, and should therefore be nakedly exhibited; or by those which deserving some measure of praise, have therefore a legitimate claim to a few shreds of that ornamental drapery, which is sometimes stolen, even by the tourist, from the cabinets of poetry and painting, to set off the portrait of a deserted land, "for which God has done so much, and man so little."

#### THE TYRONE ELECTION OF 1830.

We had no conception that the peasantry (we beg pardon, the freeholders and yeomanry) of Tyrone, were in such a high and palmy state of civilization as that in which we found them, when Mr. Henry Corry (son of the Earl of Belmore) and Sir Hugh Stewart were elected to serve that county in Parliament, in the autumn of 1830. When the honest freeholders had poured out ample libations of their mountain dew at the altar of their fat and favourite god, and played over a certain number of those wicked pranks, of which the jolly god is so notoriously fond (and in reference to the *measure* of their oblations to the red-faced deity, mounted on his throne, a puncheon, with a belly of similar rotundity, it was pretty clear that the new members had not stinted these pious worshippers) the language of the Jewish prophet to his people was brought vividly to our recollection. "From the top of your head to the soles of your feet there is no soundness in you, but you are all over wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores!" The sprigs of Shillelagh were put into active requisition; heroes fought, they knew not why; blood flowed, but not in the defence of king, kindred, or country; and he who brought home the largest number of wounds from the field of battle, and whose head was enveloped in bandages for the longest period of time, was, no doubt, the greatest hero, and the proudest man!—What a pity that the energies of such a *fine people*, a people capable of achieving such noble enterprizes, had not received a more rational direction, than that which the

circumstances of their country appear to have given them.

The feats of this election jubilee terminated with a tragical event. Among the heroes of the circus, there was an elderly man of the name of Orr, a decent farmer, and the father of a grown family, who determined to close the honours of the day with a horse-race. The road towards his home was chosen as the scene (it proved to be the last, poor man!) of competition with a neighbouring farmer; but he had scarcely cleared the town, when his horse threw and fell upon him, at a short turn, and he expired upon the spot. His competitor was also reported to have perished by a similar accident; and thus ended the transactions of this *uncontested* election, in which however one step towards a general reform of election jubilees, is said to have been taken; that of the new members subscribing £50 each to the poor fund of the town of Omagh; instead of scattering the same sum in handfulls of silver among the people in the streets, and thus inflaming to madness their natural passion for intoxication and riot at these election meetings; a custom that has done much mischief, that has been too long supported, and which experience instructs us should now be finally and universally abandoned.

In the various battles that were fought at this *uncontested* election, (and if this was the case where there was no contest for the representation of the county, what dreadful affrays must have taken place in a violent collision of *contending* candidates and their parties, in other counties; a well-known evil, which a little care might cure, by taking the votes of free-holders in their parishes instead of at the county town.) In the various battles, we say, which were fought at this *innocent* meeting of the county, some of the country gentlemen assembled at one of the hotels in Omagh, were said to have taken an active part; and among the rest, a tall attorney, distinguished in that country by his volubility of speech and pert flippancy of manner, was reported to have received the salutation of a brick-bat on his cheek in



the open street; whether for the purpose of reducing the *quantity* of his JAW, as being *superabundant*; or improving the style of his elocution, as being *superbombastic*, (and in which the egotistical phrase, "I say," "I say," maintained a conspicuous pre-eminence,) we did not hear, nor did we take the trouble to inquire; but hoping that the salutation of the brick-bat might prove useful to his *style*, without prejudice to his health, we left the arena with a pious wish that the present system of election might be reformed, and that the petulant orator just noticed might so far profit by the *charge* which his *judges* had so summarily inflicted, as to be less pointed and overbearing in his future exhibitions, without losing that masculine exercise of his JAW, which is so essential to success in his peculiar profession.

One of the worst acts of which the people were guilty in this day's proceedings, (but whether accidental or intentional we did not hear) was an assault committed upon the late Mr. Eccles, one of the most correct and respectable country gentlemen of which that town and neighbourhood could boast; but on these election occasions, the magistrates, as by common consent, appear to give the country people a licence to riot, (even as the ancient Romans are said to have given their slaves a liberty of abusing their masters with impunity on a certain day) and at this election the licence appeared to have been exercised in its utmost latitude; for although the police were present, and saw all that was going on, they rested quietly on their oars, having no authority from the magistrates to interfere with the *harmless amusements* of the people at the election of jubilee.

#### PETTY SESSIONS AT OMAGH.

On the day succeeding that of the election, an opportunity of observing another trait in the character of our country (and one with which we had been long and painfully familiar) also presented itself; a trait equally injurious, and not much less conspicuous in the Irish character than that of its propensity to battle; namely, its love of litigation.

To a man of humanity, the prospect of a large court house, filled with a *poor ignorant ragged population looking for law*, was moving in the extreme (and this in the North of Ireland too!) These poor people, to whom peace with their neighbours might be some compensation for their abject poverty, will go to law with each other about things of the most trifling concern! This feature of our national character reminds me of that part of Gulliver's history, where two nations went to war about the decision of this important question, whether an egg should be broken at the small end or at the broad, when you are about to use it. Things very nearly of as trifling import as this, will produce a law suit, an angry debate, and perhaps a broken head, in Ireland. Among many such instances of petty litigation that we have witnessed, we shall recite one curious example. A poor woman in the County of Westmeath came to consult us as to the course she should pursue in relation to a litigious tenant of our own, who was continually impounding, or otherwise persecuting her goose, for cultivating a too intimate acquaintance with his gander! We state the case simply as it occurred. This was the burthen of her complaint, and it was narrated in such a strain of simple Irish eloquence, and with such curious incidents, as it would be ridiculous, and even impossible, to transfuse into the pages of a grave publication, without placing an eclipse on the colours of the native rainbow. The subject, regarded as a specimen of those habits of our country which contribute to swell the tide of national misfortune, was truly serious; but as a subject of litigation it was so extremely ridiculous, and derived such peculiar colouring from the woman's manner of relating it, as to render it impossible to suppress risibility, even at the moment when the heart sickened at the thought of national misfortune. To the pert young tourist who is a stranger to our manners, and even to many Irish writers of comic taste, the *humour* of such an incident, and its obvious adaptation to the lower walks of Irish

comedy, would be its only recommendation; but we, who think seriously on every thing connected with our country, regarded it as one evidence among many, of the *polluted springs* of our anomalous and complex character, in which the amiable and generous virtues are too often found blended with the most enormous vices of the heart and understanding. To pierce into these springs and analyze them, was however no part of poor Biddy Egan's business; her sole object was to procure advice and assistance to put down "the murdering villain" who had vowed vengeance against her goose, for the innocent indulgence of those kind and social propensities which DIVINE BOUNTY had conferred, but which human baseness had defeated; and if she could but accomplish this object, she would never stop to reason about the moral and philosophical bearings of the question by which her goose suffered. Whether the inhuman persecutions imposed upon almost all sorts of domestic animals in Ireland, for the mere indulgence of an innocent and useful appetite of nature (and in these persecutions the children of the lower Irish shout and triumph as at a jubilee)—whether these have their source, exclusively, in the ignorance and vicious propensities of uneducated youth, or whether they have derived a part of their power from sanguinary laws, and monkish dogmas of morality, (perverting the understanding, inflaming the proud and vengeful passions, and propagating *unnatural crimes* and all sorts of hypocrisy and lies under a *holy name*) poor Biddy Egan neither stopped to enquire nor was competent to understand. To us, however, (who for nearly half a century have seen and deplored the degrading and demoralizing effects of a government, by terror, poverty, slavery, and superstition,) this was by far the most deep and painful theme of reflection. Led by the facts of our national history to a conviction, that to the sanguinary spirit of our criminal laws—the absence of enlightened education—the prevalence of poverty and physical suffering—and the corrupt systems of religion and government by which our character and cir-



cumstances have been formed, we are still more deeply indebted for the savage ferocity of our manners, than to the propensities of nature, before it has become an article of traffic in the hands of power or of priestcraft, we could not but regard the paltry battle between our tenant and his neighbour, as a subject more serious than its ludicrous tendencies would appear to indicate. Alas! said we to ourselves, this is a drop from that embittered fountain of vice and discord, in which the religion and policy of the country have too large a share. The incident it is true, which we have just heard, is small, and apparently ridiculous; but when regarded as a bitter drop from that ocean of vice and misery, under which the whole creation of God suffers in this country, by which rebellion against the law of charity is promoted, under a holy name—by which men are persecuted for a heroic avowal of the truth, and brutes for an innocent conformity to the law of nature—by which envy, hatred, malice, hypocrisy, oppression, grovelling superstitions, battles, bloodshed, and a love of litigation, with various demoniac passions, are all poured forth in copious streams, upon our unhappy country from the same exhaustless source. When the existence and desolating effects of these, we say, upon the whole state of society in Ireland are perceptible to every eye; then must there not be some deeper and more radically vicious springs of action for all this evil, than any which are found in the pure and uncontaminated fields of nature? since it is the property of the springs which bubble in these fields to court the light—to fertilize the fields through which they flow—to refresh every living thing that is languishing with drought—to purify from every external stain—and, in a word, to communicate to society all the good of which they are capable, while proceeding in their peaceful stream towards the bosom of that ocean which is their centre and their end. This is a plain and unvarnished view of nature, travelling through those channels (in the primitive order and harmony of creation) in which heaven has appointed her stream to flow; and with

the rights of nature in this course, no law of man should dare to interfere, unless for the special purpose of strengthening her embankments, and preserving from every taint of selfish corruption, the freedom and purity of that current, upon which depends the physical and moral health of all nations. Let us, however, for a moment, change the scene, and suppose the finger of oppression and superstition to have poisoned these waters, and to have forced them into rigidly contracted limits for selfish ends. What then would follow? Why in the first place, the streams which had been forced into contracted channels, would burst the boundaries that had been unjustly prescribed to them by the tyrants and impostors of the human race—In the next, having lost their purity, the fields of society would lose their native green—In the third, as physical and intellectual existence would thenceforth derive their nourishment from poisoned sources, the human faculties would become perverted and deranged—Physical and moral disorders of the worst and most dangerous description, would then follow as a natural effect—The corrupt and selfish laws (and in process of time, the deceitful dogmas) which had produced the evil, would be trampled under foot—Authority would be resisted or evaded—And finally, the flood of misery and moral disorder produced by these evils, would rise to such an enormous height under this system, as to cover the whole land and all its fruits with a universal curse!

Such has been the experience of some of those Christian nations (and in the end will probably be the experience of them all) where poverty, prejudice, and moral disorder, have been entailed upon the people, by priestcraft and oppressive institutions; and where the laws have been founded in blood, for the protection of overgrown monopolies, and exorbitant misapplications of privilege and public wealth, to the exclusion of the bulk of the people from rational liberty, from enlightened education, and not only from a moderate enjoyment of the comforts of social life, (which is their due) but also from the means of procuring a livelihood

even in the lowest rank of existence by honest labour; thus forcing them into habits of mendicancy, or into scenes of midnight plunder for the support of life. And it is a fact deserving of remark, that some of those unfortunate men, whose characters had been so deeply deteriorated by this system, as to be obliged to fly from the punishment which pursued the crimes that it had generated and maintained, have become wholly reformed and made useful citizens, when transplanted from the corrupted climates of Europe into that purer moral air of the new world, where the rights of freemen (we lament that we cannot say human nature, in a country where the African is still a slave) have been fully recognised, after ages of suffering and oppression in their native land, and both by law and practice placed upon their proper base.



## CHAPTER VI.

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### COUNTY OF FERMANAGH.

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#### ENTRANCE INTO THE COUNTY, WITH OBSERVATIONS ON ITS GENERAL APPEARANCE.

FROM Omagh we proceeded to Enniskillen, the capital of Fermanagh, by Trillick, a rising village situated on an estate of General Mervyn Archdale, one of the representatives of this county in Parliament, who occasionally resides at an interesting rural residence, which he holds in his own occupation, in the neighbourhood of that village.

After having traversed Fermanagh in all directions, we could not but derive the highest gratification from that appearance of competency and comfort, by which the habitations of the farmers were very generally distinguished; and that remarkable exemption from mendicity and want, which appeared to impart to this little county an aspect of charitable policy, or wise landlordship, of which we could not always boast in the neighbouring districts of Tyrone and Donegal, where the hoards of able-bodied poor people with long trains of children, that we saw soliciting relief in the towns of Omagh and Ballyshannon, were quite appalling.

Let us now trace these peculiar advantages of Fermanagh to the probable causes which produced them. Among these causes, we do not find that important source of wealth to every commercial country which enjoys it, a prosperous manufacture.—Of this it is comparatively destitute; and yet the face of the county wears for the most part a smiling appearance. To those who have glanced at the well-known poverty

of some corn countries on the shores of the Baltic, and other parts of the North of Europe,\* and who know that it is not to agriculture, but to manufactures and commerce, that England owes her superiority to other nations. To such as these, the apparent exemption of Fermanagh from the rapidly increasing mendicancy of the surrounding counties, may appear somewhat problematical; more particularly as it has not derived from the profits of past centuries of trade (as Antrim, Armagh, and Downshire have done) a power to resist that generally overwhelming mendicancy, under which even the neighbouring county of Tyrone is conspicuously bending, notwithstanding that the coarser branches of the linen trade, with a vast number of bleach-greens and public markets, have been long established, and are in full operation in that county. This, to the closest observers of these counties, must appear somewhat enigmatical; and, (as the trade of Tyrone, by the profitable employment which it formerly provided for the poor, must have opposed a powerful bulwark to the progress of this evil) can only be accounted for by a decay of trade, rendering manufacturing labour less remunerative than formerly; and a culpable inattention on the part of the property of the county, to the rational and practicable means of arresting the evil of destitution, in its progress to that enormous height to which it appears to have recently arisen in various parts of this once prosperous province.

It is not then to the benefits of trade and commerce, (powerful as they are known to be) that the comfort and respectability of Fermanagh are to be imputed; for it has few or no manufactures, no sea-port town; and the little inland trade which it carries on, is heavily encumbered by the expense of land carriage to and from divers distant ports, and by the obstacles to a free communication with the ocean, which is presented to the men of enterprize in Enniskillen, by the bar of Ballyshannon, and by certain

\* Under this head might not Prussia, Sweden, Denmark, and the late Poland, be all fairly included?

existing impediments to the free navigation of Lough Erne, (subjects more particularly noticed in our Review of Donegal.) But since the trade of this little inland county, in consequence of these impediments, has been so partial; to what causes may we, with a probability of truth and justice, impute its cleanliness, comfort, and good order, and the advantage which it obviously possesses over several of the surrounding counties, in a comparative exemption from the rapidly increasing evil of mendicity?

The principal causes we believe are these—First. A resident proprietary, governing their tenantry (with few exceptions) by laws of rent and tenure, which have a just and reasonable reference to the tenants interest—Secondly. A body of freeholders, as comfortable in their circumstances, and as independent in their own rank, as the lords of the soil above them.—And lastly, a very general reception of the free and independent doctrines of the Protestant religion, by the gentlemen, farmers, and shopkeepers of this county.

We know that many of our Roman Catholic countrymen will call this latter sentiment, (however strongly supported by evidence) a prejudice of education.) They will throw the Republic of Venice in our teeth (a case by no means in point, if it be true, as some have asserted, that though called a Republic, it was, *de facto*, an Oligarchy, and that a Popish Inquisition was maintained there.) They will drag in the constitutional monarchy of France to their support (a case still less in point than that of Venice, since liberty had its origin in their hatred and expulsion of the clergy.) They will reproach us with Magna Charta, procured by English Catholic Barons from the cowardice of John; but they will carefully overlook this important fact, that Magna Charta contained no record of *religious* liberty. They will talk of English penal persecutions on account of conscience; but they will not tell you that England derived these from her mother Rome, that she has grown out of them into universal toleration; while Rome remains stationary, in an obstinate adherence to the most exceptionable doctrines of her religion,



and to as large a proportion of religious and political despotism, as she dare venture to exercise in the present prevailing hatred of her impostures, and that universal thirst for liberty that is now breaking out in every country in Europe.\* Mr. O'Connell will remind us of the liberality of the Pope (as we have heard him do at a breakfast meeting at Home's) in permitting a Protestant church to be built at Rome (one Protestant church mind ! for the English embassy and gentry visiting that city) and in refusing to give his sanction to the revival of the Inquisition in Madrid—but Mr. O'Connell will not tell you that these are cock boats of improvement, following *at an immense distance* in the wake of the Reformation ; nor will he notice that act of Ferdinand's government (called an act of *faith* !) by which a Jew and a Christian are said to have been immolated some years since on the altar of Spanish piety, in defiance of that policy of the present Pope, which we have just reported upon the authority of our Irish member. Neither will Mr. O'Connell tell his people, that *that* which is granted as a *favour* in Rome, and which *even as a favour* is refused in Madrid (that is liberty of conscience,) is given to Catholics as *a mere matter of right* by every Protestant country ; nor is England contented with making the same provision for the religious and literary instruction of Catholic children that she has made for her own, (by founding schools and a college for that purpose) but she has carried her hospitality to foreign Catholics to the last extreme of virtue, for she has opened her ports and her soil to all those monks and drones of France, who supporting ecclesiastical impositions for the love of God, have been swept by the besom of public indignation from the face of that country, and might perhaps have perished if they had not found in the liberal genius of a Protestant government, a sure asylum ! Now when Mr. O'Connell, (who having been educated for a priest himself,

\* See the note on this subject, under the head of "The Press and the Parties," connected with the passage on Cobbett's Reformation.

has very naturally a deep and lively interest in the honour of Catholicity,) has brought Italy, Spain, Portugal, and Ireland, to this perfection of liberality. When he can point his finger towards Catholic countries and their colonies, protecting in the exercise of their various creeds, a hundred different sects, some of them exhibiting in their books of saints and martyrs, as many lying legends as the greatest impostors among the poets, and even errors and superstitions (in parts of their public worship and religious pilgrimages) very little inferior to those which are received and practised by the simple inhabitants of Hindostan !—When Mr. O'Connell can procure such examples of liberality as this, in countries purely Catholic—When he can make every man equal in the eye of the law, without any other reference to his creed or his superstition (as in Protestant England) save that of the liberty of exercising it in the broadest latitude—When he can do this for Italy, Portugal and Spain, as has been done by Protestant liberality for Ireland, then he may reproach us (in his public speeches) with our bigotry, and with the superior liberality of the Pope; but until then we must adhere to our well proved opinion, that the reformation of religion in Europe, was the greatest benefit conferred upon it since the days of Charlemagne; that Catholics themselves have derived large and important additions to their liberty from that great event; that this is proved by their flying to Protestant rather than to Popish countries when they are persecuted: and finally, that we are justified in believing, that the general prevalence of Protestantism in Fermanagh and other districts of Ulster, has proved tributary to the wealth, industry and good order of that province, as being inseparable from that freedom of thought and action, in which is contained the incipient principle of all human improvement. If in coming to this conclusion we have erred from prejudice, it is a prejudice supported by all the great leading facts of the living history of Europe; while the arguments which assail these facts, are proved by *the public notoriety of the facts themselves*, to

be false and inconclusive; and Mr. O'Connell, (in his vain attempts to puff off the Pope's liberality, and to assail the generous genius of the Protestant religion in the hearing of a priest ridden populace) to be a prejudiced advocate, labouring to establish, by a system of *special pleading*, in assemblies where few are able to detect his fallacies, and none dare oppose him with the full vigour of their minds, conclusions that are favourable to Popery, and unfavourable and *unjust* to the Protestant religion.\* These are the results to which the most impartial examination of the facts that we are able to command, has unavoidably conducted us. But although our opinion of the liberal and tolerant genius of the Protestant religion is fixed and immovable, we have not lost sight of the English penal laws and their horrible effects. We have not forgotten that these laws forced upon human nature in Ireland, a deep and slumbering spirit of revenge, and an incurable hatred of the English power. We have not forgotten that though the work of legal reformation has commenced, it is yet very far from being completed. We know that poverty and immorality, with mendicity, filth, famine, and disease, have been made the inheritance of the Irish poor, by a wicked neglect of their just interests; and that with this criminal negligence, the men who use the poor of Ireland as tools for their own purposes, are just as chargeable as their honest governors by law. Nor are we ignorant of the fact, that Catholics are *compelled* to support a church against which they protest; and the benefits whereof, as a reformed system, have not only been neutralized, but essentially poisoned and rendered

\* At the celebration of the last centenary of the Reformation, in Germany, an English traveller who was present has informed the public, that he saw several Catholic clergymen assisting at that ceremony, dressed in their full canonicals! On perceiving the astonishment of the stranger, one of them addressed him (we believe in French) to this effect, that they (the continental Catholics) derived as much advantage from the Reformation as we did. No doubt they do; for it forms the sure and irresistible barrier of their rights against the encroachments of the Roman Pontiff.



hateful to the people by the tithe system, by the overgrown revenues of the Bishops, and by divers impolitic statutes enacted for its support ! We know that the Roman Catholic clergy, the original owners of our church property, were stripped of their livings, and thrown upon their people for a maintenance ; and we cannot but think that in a country where there are church lands of more than a million annual value, that all tithes should be abolished, all the clergy of the country paid out of the income of those lands, delivered thereby from all secular embarrassment, from all sources of discord, from all just causes of disaffection to the state and to each other ; and the people by the same means, from all and every impost now levied by law or custom off those articles of ecclesiastical merchandise, which in the book of Revelations, are significantly styled, “SLAVES AND SOULS OF MEN.” We know fullwell all these unfortunate facts of our Irish history—we have long known and long deplored them ; and thus acquainted with the true state of things, we do not expect a sudden transition from war to peace in Catholic Ireland ; although we will do O’Connell the justice to say, that we believe he is honestly favourable to the liberalization of the Catholic character ; and that he is successfully wielding the passions and prejudices of his country against a variety of public abuses, those of his own church (which it is both his interest and inclination to *conceal*) save and excepted. But with these it is *our* special business to deal, as plainly, faithfully, and impartially, as with the abuses of the Law Church, or those of any other system. And although a conviction of the intolerance of the Romish Church, has been long forced upon us by the facts of its public and well known history ; still, as its members are rational beings, blessed with the same faculties as their Protestant brethren, and equally anxious with them to reach the goal of happiness, (whether right or wrong in their notion of the course) it would be wicked and illiberal to suppose that, they should not, like other men, derive more or less light and liberality from the observation of those errors and abuses of

their church, in the day of her power, which were so clearly brought to light, and so ably exposed by the champions of the reformation; as well as the errors of her clergy, by Erasmus and other able writers of her own communion. And although Irish Catholics may not feel inclined to abandon the church of their birth and education—Although its customs, institutions, and high professions of sanctity, (and with the vulgar its assumed antiquity) may maintain an empire over their judgments—and although they have no power to work the slightest alteration in the most absurd, revolting, and superstitious of its rites and ceremonies; still, as men of education, reading what comes before them, and as men of business, travelling with the reason of the age, and incapable (whatever narrow and bigoted inclinations they may feel) to roll the world back into those dark and iron ages, from which Christendom has been rapidly emerging since the reformation cast the first broad beam upon the multiplied abuses of the Papal power. As men thus instructed, and upon whom the light of ages has been *forced* in defiance of the intolerance of their church (and it is comfortable to think, thanks to the Reformation, that if Galileo now rose from the dead, he would not, even in Popish countries, be *murdered in the dungeons of an Inquisition*, by bloody priestly inquisitors, for asserting that the Sun stood still, and that the Earth moved round!!!) Intelligent Catholics cannot, in proportion as they reflect, but feel ashamed (however they may labour to conceal it) of those errors and atrocities, from which the Reformation derived its birth, progress, and consummation. And with such sentiments as knowledge of this kind usually imparts, the subjects of that knowledge cannot but feel a disposition to amalgamate with liberal institutions, (however strong and inflexible the despotism of their church) and hence we would wish to see the Protestant government of this realm, begin (and it is time) to manifest to the Catholic Irish of the labouring classes, the just and generous genius of the Protestant religion, by enacting laws that shall protect them against the grinding impositions of their

various oppressors, and that may have a tendency to teach them by still better and stronger examples, than those of education, *history* or *hearsay*, the advantage which a Catholic population derive from being placed under the mild and protecting wing of a Protestant government. It is thus we would labour to prove by the fruits of a true Christian faith, the value of that faith to an unenlightened people; nor would this labour of love and justice (and these virtues are perfectly compatible with the necessary chastisement of faults) be lost or thrown away upon the warm hearted Irish. The steps however which our church government took for their instruction in former times, were of another character. The inefficiency of these measures, after a long trial, has now appeared; and until perfect justice has been done to Ireland, a country so long and so deeply mismanaged, we can hardly form a correct opinion of the exact degree of liberality of which the lower classes of the Irish Catholics may be rendered capable, by enlightened education and even handed justice. To the wisdom of this true Christian policy, we trust the attention of the British government is now seriously turning. We hope also that Catholicism in Ireland is steadily, though slowly, marching towards that goal of religious liberality, of which we regard the reformation of religion as the primitive and parent source; and should Catholicism ever arrive, in the countries where it possesses exclusive power, at this high religious and political attainment, proving by its acts of law and government, that it is as fully capable of granting religious and political liberty to men of all sects and parties, as Protestant England now proves herself to be; we should then indeed rejoice at the approach of that happy day, when the nominal believers in the holy name of Christ, had arrived at that point of truly Christian liberality, in which they could regard each other as members of the same family, as children of the same father; labouring *in that character* to maintain the balance of charity and justice, fair between the different branches of their common family; instead of spreading over the face of every country,



misery, tears, and desolation, by war, persecution, robbery, and wrong ! as has been the universal course of Christendom in her history of almost 2000 years !—Oh Christendom, thou den of oppressors, this has been thy foul portrait, though pretending to be the disciples of Him who gave “ his back to the smiters and his cheeks to those who plucked off the hair ;” and whose last mandate to his disciples was this, (John xiii. 14,) “ If I then, your Lord and master have washed your feet, ye also ought to wash one anothers feet.”

To this happy state, we know many Protestants, with the facts of history before them we have quoted, and with many others to which we have made no allusion, will not believe it possible that the Roman Catholic Church and its professors can ever reach ; but we recollect that England had her penal laws, and that they are now *no more* ; that France had her Bastile, her *lettres de cachet*, and her massacre of St. Bartholomew, and that she is now *liberal*—that the Presbyterians hanged the Quakers, and that they are now *good friends* ; and that Catholics and Protestants in the United States of America, and even in Canada, under our own Government, *live together like good brothers* ; and although we know that no Protestant who speaks his mind in the bold and determined manner that we do, will be well received in any Irish Catholic assembly, or supported by the base, bigoted, and mercenary press of Dublin, yet we look forward with hope to a period in British history, when the channels of information being opened wide to truth and free inquiry, and purified from every unjust incumbrance upon knowledge, the abominable *impostures*, by which prejudice and falsehood hold sway, shall be easily and successfully exposed ; and the people of Irèland, seeing their true interests, and feeling the advantages of employment and protection which they derive from a just and parental government, shall abandon their unhappy courses, and return to the paths of peace, prosperity, and honour.

These are our sentiments, *often and forcibly expressed* ;

and although they unequivocally avow the opinion which we have deliberately formed, that the Protestant religion established in Ulster, has contributed largely to the security of life and property, and to the peace, moral order, and commercial prosperity of that district; still we trust the spirit of charity to our Catholic brethren has been combined (as it is in our inmost soul) with the spirit of fidelity to our own conscience; and having now largely treated of the active influence of the Protestant religion in the production of the unity, peace, and prosperity of Fermanagh, and in its comparative exemption from that extreme destitution, by which the able bodied poor are forced to have recourse to the charity of the public for support, in other districts, let us now consider the other principal causes which appear to us to have combined with this, to produce a favourable influence upon the character of that county.

The first and principal of these causes may be found, as we have already noticed, in a resident proprietary. Lord Enniskillen, General Archdale, Lord Corry, (as his father's representative) Sir Henry Brooke, and in fact most of the proprietors of the soil, live and spend their fortunes in the bosom of their country; mix and mingle with the feelings and interests of their people; and the natural consequence of this home residency is, that the working classes are not permitted (like many of the wretched inhabitants of Derry, Donegal, Tyrone, and Cavan) to sink into such utter indigence, as to be compelled to carry on a warfare for existence with the farmers of the country, and shopkeepers of the neighbouring towns; upon the charity of which classes (whether to the honour or dishonour of the legislators of the land, let the friends of British prosperity decide) the support of the mendicant population of Ireland has long devolved!

The second (and which naturally and necessarily flows from the other as its source) is that of a most respectable tenantry, some of whom hold their farms for ever, subject to a small chief rent, (of which we shall give two or three

examples in the progress of our review of this county) and other farmers of less note, at such rents, and by such good tenures, as secure to them and to their children, the full fruition of their capital and labours; a motive to improvement, and a source of competency and comfort, which no tenant *at will*, or dependent upon a twenty-one years' lease, can possess in Ireland, considering the way that power is sometimes exercised by the lord of the soil, the middle man, and the landlord's agent in that country; and because although the landlord may be a good man, the heir of that landlord may happen to become an absentee and an oppressor; and consequently, in the existing circumstances of Ireland, it is the interest even of the absentee landlord, to give a tenant of *known solvency*, a lease of three lives or thirty-one years at least, (binding him to such improvements in building and planting as the value of his bargain may justify,) as otherwise capital will not be freely expended on the estate, and Ireland will remain, as it has too long been, a nation of slaves and beggars, without reverence and affection for their laws or rulers.

We do not say that Fermanagh furnishes no instance of the base and beggarly policy of short leases, (for base and beggarly have been its effects in Ireland, however it may have worked in England, where long established custom and the confidence existing between landlord and tenant supply the place of law,) but we do say that, a large proportion of the yeomanry of Fermanagh hold their lands at moderate rents and by good tenures, and that this is one of the causes which have rescued that country, in an eminent degree, from the ravages of a squalid pauperism, and placed it on an equality, in point of *decency* and *comfort*, with the most respectable cantons of the sister country. During a general residence of six weeks in the town of Enniskillen, the capital of the county, we did not, *in the whole of that time*, see *half* as many poor people soliciting relief, as in *a single day* in the towns of Omagh and Ballyshannon. And if this, on the examination of these latter towns, on the days



(and they are frequent) when the neighbouring poor assemble to obtain relief, shall be found to be a fact of public notoriety in the history of the counties to which these towns belong, we justly and reasonably infer, that the proprietors of the soil of those counties, have been guilty of a high crime and misdemeanour against the honest and industrious men, upon whom, in addition to their heavy rents and taxes, they have thrown the burthen of a mendicant population, to whose employment and support, the landlord's knowledge and *ample resources*, should have been long since patiently and vigorously directed. And as we believe a large proportion of lands in the county of Donegal, are in the possession of the college of Dublin; this fact, in its existing history, ought to open the eyes of government to the absolute necessity of entering upon a revision of the enormous princely revenues, so long and needlessly permitted to remain in the hands of a few literary teachers, who would be well paid for their services by the rents now resulting from one tenth of those lands, which in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when that college was endowed, were probably not worth more than two or three-pence per acre, and would now let, in many instances, for more than ONE HUNDRED TIMES THAT SUM! We are by no means hostile to a respectable maintenance of those teachers, for we think that literary men (whose talents are devoted to the public service) ought to be made *easy* in their circumstances; but if we possessed the power, we would neither give to them, nor to the wealthy priests and bishops who are too numerous in this country, enormous princely revenues, (in a land where the poor are starving and comparatively destitute of employment) for services that would be equally well (and perhaps more humbly and edifyingly) performed for a smaller income.

#### FACILITIES FOR TRADE.

Let us now make a few observations upon the facilities for trade, with which Lough Erne provides this county.

This Lough is one of the finest waters in the North of

Ireland; and from its contiguity to Ballyshannon (a town situated on the Bay of Donegal,) it presents to the enterprise of the inhabitants of that town, and to those of the neighbouring county of Fermanagh, (the subject of this chapter) the strongest possible incentives to a united and powerful exertion for the removal of those obstacles which now exist, to a free communication between Enniskillen, Ballyshannon, and the western ocean.

The principal of these obstacles is that which is found in the bar of Ballyshannon (for the particulars of which we refer the reader to our next chapter upon Donegal). The others are, the want of a canal from Ballyshannon to Belleek (a village on the banks of Lough Erne) a distance of three miles only; and the lowering of two or three ledges of rocks in the Lough, so as to admit a steam boat of sufficient power to take vessels in tow from Ballyshannon to Enniskillen; and were these impediments to a free communication with the ocean once removed, (and a persevering exertion of the landed and commercial interests of Donegal and Fermanagh would be more than equivalent to the task) Ballyshannon would soon become, as an ingenious inhabitant of the town well observed, the Greenock of the North of Ireland, and Enniskillen, the Glasgow of the same province.

On the event of Ireland becoming an extensive theatre for the embarkation of English capital, we know no districts in the Island more likely to be selected by the monied interest of England for that purpose, than those of Leitrim and Fermanagh, as the numerous lakes in these counties contiguous to each other (with the aid of a few short canals) would furnish peculiar facilities for the conveyance of manufactured iron, pottery ware, and glass, &c. (for which Leitrim in particular has inexhaustible materiæ) to the Atlantic Ocean at Sligo and Ballyshannon; and of course, through that ocean to the markets of America and the West Indies, where those goods are wanted, and are likely to pay well.

We cannot look to the lords of the Irish soil, with any

rational prospect of success, for the establishment of such public works as these. It is not merely capital that is wanted, but a taste for those laborious pursuits of trade and commerce, which require great industry, patience, and perseverance, to bring them to a successful issue. The gentlemen of Ireland, generally speaking, would much rather hunt a fox than a coal mine; or try the quality of the claret in their cellars, than of the iron (or even the silver, lead, and copper, if such existed) at the bottom of their mountains. Their love of ease and pleasure, has however in some respects a favourable influence upon their character as gentlemen, inasmuch as it produces a taste for hospitality and other generous virtues, and engenders a spirit superior to that extreme parsimony and suspicion, which many consider as a concomitant of the commercial character, that, in the existing state of the world, cannot altogether be separated from the pursuits of trade. But if, as Irish gentlemen, they derive a feature of honour, and a feather of well-merited pride, from their princely qualities; the population of their country languish under the effects of their indolent repose; and their want of union and industry to render their capital available to the improvement of their fortunes, and the employment of their people, in reference to the effects which it produces, is an evil so effectually neutralizing all the natural wealth and energies of their country, that we cannot overlook it. It is by an effectual combination of the rank, capital, and industry of England, that the resources of that country have been rendered so eminently tributary to its wealth and power; and it is from the accidental absence of this needful union in our own country, that we are forced to look to England for the means by which our population may be employed, and the deep and dormant treasures of our soil brought into effectual operation for the public good. And although we should be sorry to see the generous and hospitable virtues of the Irish gentleman and landlord, altogether swallowed up in the soul-consuming cares of the manufacturer and merchant; yet for the sake



of that immense majority of the people, who are dependent upon their labour for a livelihood, and many of whom for want of profitable employment, are in a state of deep destitution, we cannot but wish that such portions of our soil in the North of Ireland (where property is secure) as are peculiarly applicable to purposes of trade and commerce, were quickly transferred into the hands of English commercial companies, on an express understanding that capital to a certain amount should be embarked and employed there.

Among the counties in Ireland thus favoured by nature, there are perhaps none which maintain a more distinguished position on the map of that country, than those of Tyrone, Fermanagh, Leitrim, and Donegal, (more particularly the three latter) all closely approximating; and yet, with the exception of Tyrone (which abounds with coal, and where a few pits are worked) there are perhaps no tracts in which less advantage has been taken of the various mineral treasures deposited by Nature in the soil, than in those just mentioned.

Of the numerous resources of Leitrim (one of the smallest and least known counties in the Island) we gave some striking specimens in two or three succeeding editions of a former work; and although this county is not in the N. W. district, yet as it lies contiguous to it, and a communication between Lough Allen in Leitrim, and Lough Erne in Fermanagh, might be opened through Lough M'Naine and other waters, at a very moderate expense, we think it may not be amiss to connect this county with our observations on the N. W. district, for the purpose of drawing the attention of those capitalists who may not have seen the description of Leitrim in other works, to an attentive consideration of the natural history of a district with which it unites to form a great and important theatre of trade.

Convinced we are, that if a sufficient capital could be raised to work the resources of these counties (and in order thereto to connect the Leitrim and Fermanagh lakes with each other, and with the Atlantic Ocean at Ballyshannon

and Sligo) that no district of country in Europe would be found to contain a larger variety of materials for a great and extensive trade with North and South America and the West Indies, and with all the principal ports of the home market. And knowing also that from the superior cheapness of labour and provisions in Ireland, the advantage of embarking capital in that country is much greater than in any other district of the British Islands, we respectfully invite the attention of the English reader to the following strong specimens of the natural wealth of Leitrim; which, being the result of an actual survey of its principal mineral district, stands upon firmer foundations than the mere reports of coal and iron in Fermanagh, of which no geological survey has yet been executed, although we believe mines were formerly worked on the lands of Clonelly; and also that coal fit for manufacturing purposes (though unfit for fuel) has been discovered on the lands of Sir Henry Brooke, Bart.; iron on those of the Earl of Enniskillen; and minerals applicable to trade, on the lands of General Archdale, and those of a Mr. Brien, on the western shore of Lough Erne: but the gentlemen of this county do not appear to have much taste for trade, and as the bogs are plenty, and they feel no scarcity of fuel, it is probable they pay but little attention to the indications of coal or iron in their lands, although their existence in the County of Fermanagh is well understood.

#### EXTRACTS FROM OUR REVIEW OF LEITRIM,

(Published in several editions of a former work.)

The peculiar advantages which this county possesses for the employment of capital in trade, although well known to its own intelligent inhabitants, and to a few men of science who have explored it, is nevertheless but very partially known to the mercantile interests of England, to whom the eye of Ireland is now very justly directed for a fair participation in the trade and capital of that country. In an effort therefore to contribute our mite towards a great

moral amalgamation of the two countries, we think it our duty to challenge an inquiry into the natural history of this country, convinced, that in no similar portion of His Majesty's dominions, will a tract of soil be found more deeply and generally pregnant with all the necessary materials for a great and extensive trade. Its natural wealth embraces iron, tin, coal (and some say copper) fuller's earth, black and yellow ochres, pipe clay, potters' clay and fire clay, clay for bricks, stone for building, and slate for roofs, to say nothing (though the soil in many parts is poor) of agricultural produce, cheap labour and live stock, hides, timber, and bark for tanning, all of which can be procured here. And to these may be added, great and extraordinary facilities of water carriage (with a comparatively small expenditure of money) to North and South America and the West Indies, and to many principal ports in the home market. And yet, in the present state of Ireland, all these advantages are lying dormant for want of capital, notwithstanding this little tract is capable of being made one of the most distinguished theatres of trade in the British empire (a second Staffordshire upon the soil of Ireland.) To the perfection of its navigation, a grant of Parliament of most trifling amount, in comparison of the magnificent effects to be produced, would be sufficient. It abounds with lakes, and enjoys the advantage of water carriage by the Royal Canal to Dublin; to Athlone and Limerick, by the river Shannon, which passes through it; and with the aid of a canal of about sixteen miles from Lough Allen, in Leitrim, to Loughgill (which opens upon the Atlantic Ocean at Sligo) it would command an open communication with the West Indies and the two Americas; facts more largely explained in the history of that more eminent mineral region, with which we usher in a few specimens of property in this county; and to the facts of that history, as we received them from an authentic source, we refer the public.

The soil of this county is so deeply and extensively ferruginous, that a gentleman of property residing here, ob-



served to us, that iron was its curse! The people have no means to turn this mineral to account; and the surface of the soil, which they can alone cultivate, being injured by it, it is not surprising that they should regard this ferruginous matter as the bane of their county.

Such is the language made use of by some persons who have a considerable interest in the Leitrim soil; and it bears not alone upon this branch of the natural wealth of Ireland, but by some of those landlords and legislators, into whose hands our unfortunate destiny has cast us, it is applied with equal freedom and with a stronger practical effect, to the rapid growth of our population. Thus, in reference to Ireland, it may be said, that those gifts of the God of nature which constitute the wealth and power of other states, by some singular perversion of the bounty of Providence are constituted her *curse*; a fact which reminds us of a threat of vengeance held out in the Mosaic history—"I will curse your blessings."

It is true we can perceive our country (and we thank God for this proof of her native energy) forcing the genuine characteristics of her soil and people upon the view of mankind, and more particularly on that of England, who has so deep an interest in her actual resources; but still she has a great deal to do, and her genuine patriots are loudly called upon to bury in oblivion their party quarrels, and to unite in a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether in the improvement of their common country; and, particularly, in an effort to place the character of the population upon a sound moral base; as by this alone the confidence of England can be secured to us, and a clear and confidential channel opened for a free and unrestricted influx of the capital of that country into this neglected land.

## LEITRIM AND SLEIBHANERIN MINES.

These valuable mines are situate in the Baronies of Leitrim, Mohill, and Dromahaire, and comprise the parishes and townlands of Aughacashell, Derreens, Gurtnewane, Mullaghorrow, Knockacullen, Auskinamuck, Clarenmore, Clarenbeg, and Colliery Mountain, by Drumshambo, in the County of Leitrim. They are bounded by the lake of Lough Allen on the west, and the counties of Fermanagh and Cavan, on the north and east. They are distant sixteen miles from the port of Sligo, thereby opening on the Atlantic Ocean, and holding direct facilities of communication with the new and old world. They are also situate within three miles of the Royal Canal, which connects the mines and adjacent country with the port of Dublin; and the rate of charge on the canal being only eleven shillings per ton, they have therein another (and almost equally as cheap a) mode of communication with the principal ports of the United Kingdom. The principal towns in the vicinity of the mines are, Carrick-on-Shannon, distance twelve miles; Leitrim, eight; Drumshambo, five; Ballinamore, eight; Cashcarrigan, five; and Mohill, twelve; and there are several other towns within easy distances, and connected by county roads. This vast mineral property is in a virgin state. From time immemorial, the division of Aughacashell has been called Sleive in Erin, or the Iron Mountain, the peasantry and surrounding country having called it by no other name; but, while its great riches were thus seen and universally acknowledged, no opportunity presented itself for bringing them to account. The extensive domains in the western counties of Ireland, which were originally held by patent from the Crown, were subsequently set out in smaller proportions, and so divided on leases for three lives, renewable on a trifling fine, that these mineral properties, which it was essentially necessary should be held together, in order that the product of the one might give the means of raising the other, became thus in a measure broken and wholly useless.

Captain Johnston's ancestors, who held a considerable part of this property for many generations, had been in the invincible practice of setting it out in small divisions, rearing cattle on, and cultivating the surface; and a numerous and poor tenantry had neither the means nor the skill to benefit themselves by the riches on which they trod. At present, the several denominations and tracts of mining property are combined, and form

	A.	R.	P.
Aughacashell .....	320	0	8
Gurthewane .....	310	0	22
Mullaghorrow .....	407	0	38
Derreens .....	1711	0	25
Colliery Mountain, &c.	369	2	25
	<hr/>		
		3118	0 38
With the Lands and Royalties of	A.	R.	P.
Clarenmore .....	268	0	23
Clarenbeg .....	239	1	21
Drumsdrisden .....	369	2	15
	<hr/>		
		877	0 19
	<hr/>		
		3995	1 17 equal
		to 5,000 English acres.	

And are contiguous to tens of thousands of acres of other royalties, with right of working on payment of a small fine; so that this combined mineral property is very extensive, and, as will be incontestably proved, inexhaustible.

#### CAUSES OF REMAINING UNWORKED.

The cost of carrying to Dublin was formerly £4 per ton, and is now only 11s. per ton, in consequence of the Royal Canal having been formed, and which has been completed within the last few years. The road to Sligo was formerly wretchedly bad, and incapable of having a rail-way. At this time Government having greatly improved the roads, and shortened that to Sligo three miles, and taken a more level route, avoiding the windings it formerly presented, there is now a most convenient line for a rail-road, and which, when formed from the product of the mines, can be laid down at a very small charge. The divided and unsettled



state of the country, and men of rank or influence quitting after the Union, to reside near the centre of power and patronage; and capital being occupied in the operations of war. But it will be seen that no investment of capital can be so sure and productive, as when employed at home, and for minerals, which, as here, only require to be taken up.

#### CAPACITIES.

These mines are indisputably inexhaustible in stores of iron-stone, coal, lime-stone, fire-clay, fine potter's clay, fuller's earth, black and yellow ochres, black and red pottery clay, stone-jar stuff, pipe-clay, stone for building, slate for roofs, clay for bricks, each superior in their kind, and within a small circle. In the Royalty there is known to be tin, and firmly believed, lead and copper. The shores of the lake supply the fine sand for plate-glass, now so much in demand; and at a distance of eleven miles, the coast is covered with sea-weed for burning kelp to any extent; besides every facility for a successful fishery, and for the manufacture of salt for curing; thus affording a cheap and never-failing source of food, and preventing the price of labour from rising with the demand for it. Corn-mills, worked by water, are closely adjacent. The iron ore is of the very finest quality, varying from 50 to 82 per cent., and the faces of the lodes shew frequently large masses of almost pure metal; and every part of the immense iron mountain can be worked either by sinking shafts, or running levels at pleasure, thereby requiring no drainage. The coal is of a kind peculiarly favourable for smelting purposes; and there are two seams, which from the easy access to them, are wrought by the peasantry; one seam is eleven feet in thickness, and the other nearly nine. The lime-stone is immediately on the spot, and in vast quantities. And the concentration, within a limited and convenient space, of iron-stone, coal, and lime-stone, together with every other requisite for smelting and manufacturing, form an union of power and wealth, which no other mineral property in the

United Kingdom can display. The clays are so varied, and of such excellent descriptions, that the late proprietor of that part of the country where they are most abundant, was applied to for permission on the part of some intelligent parties, to form a company in London, for the express purpose of working them, independently of the other properties.

#### FACILITIES.

The mines being situated in the midst of a large and almost unoccupied population, employment would concentrate, without raising the price of labour to an inconvenient standard. The ordinary wages of the most able hands are from 3*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* per week. The lake and the canal, with other connected waters which form a part of the boundary, afford a cheap and ready conveyance to the home and foreign markets for all the necessary purposes of intercourse; and thereby the products are able to defy competition in price as well as in quality. The roads to Sligo, and those generally throughout this part of the kingdom, are being shortened, levelled, and judiciously improved, on a grand scale, under commissioners appointed by the Government, assisted by Mr. Nimmo. The communications by water throughout the interior, by connecting the numerous lakes, rivers, and canals, with the formation of others, will infuse new life and character, and thus shewing the actual riches and wealth of the country, give vigour to enterprize and industry; and justify the investment of capital to any amount. See the Reports on the Roads, Canals, &c. in Ireland, as ordered by Parliament in a late and previous session. See also the interesting and able remarks made by J. Leslie Foster, Esq. (now Baron Foster) in the House of Commons, as applying to a part of these identical properties.

### COMPARISON OF WEALTH FROM POSITION AND LOCALITY.

From the foregoing it has been shewn, under the head of "Capacities," that the inexhaustible stores of iron-stone, coal, lime-stone, and every other requisite for the smelting and manufacture of iron, in all its stages, are here on the spot. Under the head of "Facilities," it is also shewn, that the extraordinary concentration is assisted by the abundance and cheapness of labour. And in contrast to these flattering and important facts, the hitherto unequalled and valuable works, so well known as the Carron Iron works, in Scotland, appear absolutely in the shade. For in the highly esteemed statistical works of Sir John Sinclair, Bart. he states, in reference to the latter, as follows. "They are supplied with iron ore from Lancashire and Cumberland, and with iron-stone from Banton, Derry, and Bonnyhill, &c., in this vicinity; and from the county of Fife, &c. They have lime-stone from Burntisland, &c. &c. and coals from Kinnaird, Carron-hall, and Shield-hill. All the materials which are made use of at these works, are brought to them by water carriage." Statistical accounts, vol. xix. p. 94.

### ESTIMATES.

Cost of Manufacture of one ton of Pig metal from the ore.

	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
To 3 tons of iron ore.....	at	4 6	0	13	6
4 tons of coals.....	"	5 0	1	0	0
1 ton of lime-stone.....	"	3 6	0	3	6
Managers, Engineers, Labourers, and Keeper's wages, with sand, and wear and tear of engines .....			0	10	6
Total cost of one ton of pig metal at these mines.....			£2	7	6

Cost of Manufacturing Pig Metal into Refiners Metal.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
To 1 ton 1 cwt. 2 qrs. pig metal, at 2 7 6 per ton.....	2	10	7			
4 sacks of coals.....at 0 1 4 .....	0	5	4			
Wages, 1s. 6d. blast and sundry expenses, 1s. 6d..	0	3	0			
Total cost of one ton of refiner's metal.....	2	18	11			



## Cost of Manufacturing Refiner's Metal into Bar Iron.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
To 1 ton 2 cwt. 1 qr. of refiner's metal at 2 18 11 per ton	3	4	8			
Puddling coals, wear and tear, waste, &c..	0	6	6			
Sand 1s. 6d., wear and tear of engine 1s. 6d.....	0	3	0			
Rolling 3s. 6d. waste in ditto, 3s. wages, 4s. 6d....	0	11	0			
Use of engine, water-wheel, oil, grease, leather, &c..	0	4	6			
				£4	9	8
Carriage of 1 ton to Dublin .....	0	11	0			
Total cost of 1 ton of perfect iron from these mines, delivered free at Dublin .....	£5	0	8	or £6		
Delivered free in London .....						

The two last year's contracts for Gas Pipes, were taken at from £11. to £12. 10s. per ton. From these Mines they could be delivered in London at £5. 5s. per ton, with a profit, as appears by the following liberal calculation of actual cost.

To pig metal .....	2	7	6
Running into pipes .....	0	13	0
Freight and charges of delivery in London or any other port.....	1	14	0
Actual cost per ton for gas pipes.....	£4	14	6

Machinery of every description commands a still larger profit. On the subject of erecting engines, it is to be observed, that each engine will work two furnaces, and each furnace can make, if required, 70 tons of metal per week; but 50 tons is the ordinary product. So that on only six engines being erected, and consequently twelve furnaces, there will be a certain weekly product of 600 tons of metal, or of 31,200 tons annually; and which, if brought into any market, at the usual prices of iron, would give a net profit of from £5. to £7. per ton, or at the lowest estimate of £156,000. per annum.

The foregoing is a certain result on the application of only one-third of the capital proposed to be invested. And, notwithstanding the increased attention given of late to mining pursuits generally, and the vast quantity of iron which this undertaking will also add to the present supply,

it is nevertheless the concurrent opinion of practical engineers and scientific men, that the use of all metals is augmenting, while the application of iron is as yet only in its infancy; hence ensuring a constant, and probably even a larger profit in the manufacture of it in future. This is strikingly illustrated in the price of copper ore, which a few years ago varied from £102. to £110., and is now actually £138. per ton.

#### REMARKS ON ESTIMATES.

It is chiefly in the first and last stages of manufacture, that the advantage over the Welsh and Staffordshire mining and smelting works lies; the first costing them full 40s. more per ton, and in the last, the manufacture here so perfectly equals the Swedish, as to obtain an extra price. The easy working, and on one spot, of all the requisite materials, and the consequent saving of carriage, and the general cheapness of labour, form the ground of the first advantage; the superiority of those materials the last. The canal charge to Dublin, when added to the freight to London, or the shipment at the port of Sligo, will frequently be less, never more, than the freight from Staffordshire or Wales, it varying in each quarter according to seasons and circumstances. The Royal canal runs direct into the Liffey and the Irish Sea. Coals can be delivered in Dublin at from 15s. to 17s. per ton, where they cost on an average from 20. to 30s. per ton. Fire-clay is in London, about 90s. per ton, and could be delivered with a profit at 50s. Potters clay will afford a large profit, either to erect potteries or to export. Glass in all its branches can be manufactured to immense advantage. Tin certainly, and no doubt copper, might be found and worked with great facility and success. Lime-stone, for use and sale, to considerable benefit. And to keep a permanent level on the price of labour, a small fishery might be cherished and made the medium of considerable profit, as connected with the making of salt, and burning kelp.

## ADDITIONAL MEANS OF WORK AND EMOLUMENT.

Within short distances of these mines, are both lead and copper mines now at work, but which are obliged to smelt in Wales, and thereby incur a great charge in freight, labour, &c. These will instantly contract for smelting at these mines, on the works being completed; no coal so entirely adapted for smelting purposes, being found in any other part of Ireland. In proof of this, Mr. Griffith, government inspector of the Royal Mines in Ireland, states, in reports to Parliament in a late session, that the coal of the district of these mines is, for all smelting purposes, so superior to any in the sister kingdom, that one half of the quantity suffices for the smelting of a ton of iron, compared with what is required for the same effect at the Carron works in Scotland! This is an important difference: and hence it will necessarily follow, that ore raised in Ireland will be smelted at these works in future, instead of being shipped to England or elsewhere for that purpose.

Cheapness of labour being in all manufactories, and coal in many, a most material point, it is intended to use all the advantages of situation, by extracting the iron from the ore, and bringing it into its quite perfect state, in the manufacture of the most important articles in general use, whether in cast or wrought iron; viz. anchors, chains, cables, &c. for shipping; cannon; pipes of all kinds, for gas, water, &c.; columns, beams, pillars, balustrades, railing, &c.; steam boilers, pots, fire grates, stoves, &c.; and machinery of different descriptions.

The capital here invested will give employment to 10,000 individuals, the by far greater part of whom are now idle, and in a comparatively starving state; and so highly is the product and utility of working these mines estimated in Ireland, that a great portion of the investment is offered from thence.

Added to the actual products of the mines and works, there will also accrue a large income, arising from ground



rents, in buildings to be erected by tradesmen—as brewers, distillers, grocers, bakers, butchers; and in setting out on leases or otherwise, the surface of so many thousand acres of land, which, being both arable and pasture, are suited for more extensive and improved cultivation.

#### DIRECT AUTHORTIES FOR THE SEVERAL STATEMENTS.

##### FIRST.

Reports from Mr. Griffith, Government Inspector of Royal mines in Ireland; also Messrs. Guest and Grieve, eminent surveyors; printed and laid before Parliament in June, 1824. A report made to the Dublin Society in 1814, on the particular examination and inspection of the most eminent mineralogists and miners, as well practical as theoretical, of this country.

##### SECOND.

The application, when too late, of individual capitalists, who tendered their proposals on most liberal terms, while on the mountains themselves, with their engineers, for the purpose of inspecting the properties; and who stated they must have them at any price.

##### THIRDLY.

The proposals made at different times by the Royal Irish and other established mining companies. Such applications and anxiety being the result of mature and deliberate investigation, in ascertaining the most eligible and judicious situations for carrying the objects of their large capitals into effect.

#### COLLATERAL PROOFS.

The petition of the three surrounding counties to the Lord Lieutenant; and who, unknown to the proprietor, presented their memorial, praying for pecuniary aid to enable the mines to be worked with spirit, and so to dispense extensive employment. Could such a request to such a quarter, arise from any thing but a firm conviction of the great advantages to be derived from such an investment of

capital, and in the large scope for industry afforded by so comparatively a national undertaking, added to the certainty that the government were as fully assured on these points? And that this impression is correct, Mr. Goulburn has already shown, in audiences given by him on the subject, and wherein he regretted their being no specific fund under government for such advances, but expressed his determination to use his influence with the well informed capitalists of Ireland, who, he was glad to find, were at last alive to the great advantages, facilities and riches of these mines.

And the Corporation of Dublin are already in accord with Mr. Goulburn, in having handsomely offered to wave all dues on the landing or transit of the produce of these mines.

#### GENERAL REMARKS.

The mineral riches of Ireland have been from the earliest records the theme of successive historians. Mineralogists and Geologists have from time to time surveyed her vast fertility, and wondered at the variety of her many productions. No one has looked at her mines and natural resources without feeling regret, that with so kindly and generous a people, such riches should have been hitherto so little available.

Happily the advance of science, and the labours of such distinguished men as Sir Humphrey Davy, and a Rennie, and others, visiting this country for the purpose of inspecting her resources, aided by the liberal spirit of the age, and an universal peace, have given an impulse favourable to the developement of her powers. Ireland will hereafter hold her rank as the brightest gem in the British crown.\*

Mining is in every way a legitimate and highly praiseworthy pursuit. England owes a proportion of her present greatness to her mines, and more especially to those of iron, and the manufactories arising therefrom. These mines will afford no inconsiderable addition to the wealth of the United

\* *That she may do with a local legislature, but never without it.*—ED.  
NOTE.

Kingdom; for the proprietor, (Captain Johnson,) having personally inspected the iron mines of Sweden, Russia and Norway, with the most considerable establishments of his own country, feels a conscious satisfaction in being able to declare, that in no kingdom or district which has ever fallen under his observation, are such vast mineral riches to be found, as are concentrated within these mines; nor can the general facilities for working them, or of conveyance to all the markets of the world, be any where equalled!

Merthyr Tydvill, formerly an inconsiderable village, is now, from her iron works, become the most considerable town in Wales, having a population of 40,000 inhabitants.\* The village of Carron (in Scotland) has been similarly augmented and enriched. Why shall not the Leitrim and Sleiveanerín mines, from their wonderful capacities, produce a more striking result?

The shares of the Carron company, originally only £250. each, have been sold for £4000. each; and it is hoped that the public spirit which now throws open the Shares of the Leitrim and Sleiveanerín mining association, in sums adapted to annuitants, and the effective classes of the British public, will, in the course of a few years, display a similarly proud result.

N. B. Lough Allen lies at the bottom of the Sleiveanerín mountain. The Royal canal unites with this lough at Drumshambo; and with the aid of the river Shannon, opens a communication between this great mineral district and the city of Dublin. A canal of sixteen miles would open a passage from Lough Allen to the Atlantic ocean at Sligo, and between Leitrim and Lough Erne, (which washes the counties of Cavan and Fermanagh) there are divers lakes which might be rendered tributary, with Loughs Erne and

\* Has the prosperity of this Welsh town injured England, we would ask? or rather has it not contributed its due proportion to the wealth of the state? Why then give way to that mean and paltry jealousy of Ireland and her resources, by which the energies of her people have been crushed and her trade extinguished! The truth is, that England has been both the blessing and the curse, the crown and the thorn of this unhappy country.—ED. NOTE.



Neagh, to a communication by water with Belfast, as also with the counties of Cavan, Fermanagh, and Armagh, many parts of which are destitute both of lime and fuel, with which they could be abundantly supplied from Leitrim; and undoubtedly the long talked of Ulster canal (to open a communication between Loughs Erne and Neagh) would, in this point of view be a great public benefit, were justice once done to the town of Ballyshannon (in relation to its bar) and to that of Enniskillen, in relation to the impediments which exist to the free navigation of Lough Erne; to the previous execution of which latter, and certainly more important works to the landed and commercial interests of Donegal and Fermanagh, we earnestly recommend the *timely* attention of the inhabitants of these counties, (See our reflections on this important subject, in the concluding chapter of this work, under the head of Donegal) and when these had been completed, and justice thus done to Donegal and Fermanagh, then the Ulster canal would prove generally useful in the progress of improvement.

By a computation heretofore gone into by the grand jury of this county (Leitrim) about ten miles of a canal between Lough Allen and Lough Erne (with the aid of the river of Ballyhady in the county of Cavan) would complete the navigation between these lakes.

#### TOWNS, TRADE, CHARACTER OF THE PEASANTRY— MAGISTERIAL PERSECUTIONS OF THE POOR.

We have already alluded to the towns approximating with the aforesaid principal mineral district of this county (which latter, alas! we believe to be still lying comparatively dormant!) and shall now offer a brief remark upon those towns, as they came under our own personal review.

We know of no town in Leitrim deserving of notice, in reference to the measure of its trade, population, and buildings, &c. except that of Carrick on the river Shannon, the assizes town, which being situated on this mistress of our rivers, does a little boating business with Dublin in the provision

trade, &c. and has several respectable shops—and next to it in appearance, and in the enjoyment of a wretchedly poor home trade, are Ballinamore and Mohill; but within the whole circle of this county, we believe there is not as much business done as in the neighbouring towns of Athlone and Longford. For however eminently favoured by Nature, the County of Leitrim may be, it is a characteristically poor and wretched district; and for this reason, because the people have no means of profiting by the subterraneous treasures of their county, and are thrown by their want of capital upon the culture of a soil, extensively *impoverished* by the prevalence of its ferruginous *wealth*.—Hence the labouring poor, who walk naked and unemployed over all its dormant minerals, present to the view of humanity a true subject of commiseration, and a wretched picture of the narrow and blasting policy of that country, which, by foreigners who only see it at a distance, has been denominated the envy and admiration of the world! Besides the towns just noticed, there are also Leitrim (composed of a group of miserable hovels) from which the county takes its name, the neat, though small villages of Drumsna and James-town, contiguous to each other, and which, as being the seat of divers respectable families, and connected with a part of the country on the banks of the Shannon, planted, improved, and embellished with various gentlemen's seats, contribute a due proportion of influence to the beauty of the county. In the department of scenery, however, the picturesque is much more eminently promoted by that wild grandeur of nature by which some landscapes of the interior are distinguished, (where spacious lakes, and eccentric hills burst suddenly upon the view, and give a peculiar interest to the feelings of the stranger who has a taste for the romantic) than by any work of art whatever.

This being the state of the County of Leitrim, as Nature and civil government have made it, let us now take a brief glance at the character of the peasantry, and at the sensible gratitude to God which has been produced in their hearts, by the gift of *British justice*, as they feel its happy influences

in the administration of British law by the magistrates around them.

The peasantry, from all that we could perceive and learn, (and our gig and travelling baggage, with all our books and clothing, were sometimes unavoidably left to their mercy in publicly exposed places for a whole night together, and were left untouched!) are naturally kind, warm-hearted, and with few exceptions, amenable to the laws; in proof of which we refer to a prominent fact in the history of this county—namely, that for nine or ten years previous to 1827, when we procured this information from Mr. Irwin, the excellent governor of the county prison (and who had filled that office for thirty preceding years) only one execution had taken place at Carrick, the county town, notwithstanding that *hundreds* of unfortunate men had been plunged by the magistrates of that county in the dungeons of the county prison, (of whom two only were convicted) and kept there from one to six months, as the case might be, on charges of rape; and by these persecutions (followed up for *reasons best known to the magistrates themselves*) a principle of hatred to English law and Irish justice, must have been deeply infixed in the minds of these unfortunate men; their character and circumstances effectually ruined; and a recklessness of mind produced, which would effectually prepare them for any future conspiracy (against the laws and institutions of this country) that might happen to be formed.

That within the precincts of this county there are *some* just and virtuous magistrates (we think we knew one of this sterling stamp, who is now no more) charity, and even common fame oblige us to believe; but whether (as has been reported of some magistrates in other places) there are any here who would on certain conditions, and for certain reasons, comply with the wishes of some private prostitutes to force paramours of their own rank (with whom they had frequently cohabited) into the matrimonial yoke, we leave the public to infer from the above information, faithfully copied from the mouth of the governor of the



county prison ; and if it is thus that the wretched peasantry of Ireland are to be treated, is it not surprising that there is an hour's peace, or an hour's security for life and property in such a country.—Let the public look to the County of Clare, where the laws can only be maintained by a strong armed force !—How have the peasantry and small farmers been treated in that county ?—It would be a tedious tale to go over the whole history of the landed interest in that district. We have already touched upon some of its prominent points in “ Ireland exhibited to England,” and therefore in this volume we shall content ourselves with observing, that one day, while travelling in that county, perceiving a crowd of people running rapidly through the fields in pursuit of some object unknown to us, we asked a few foot soldiers (belonging to a party of the 23rd foot stationed in the neighbouring village of Kildimo) who were standing in the gripe of a ditch upon the road, as spectators of the hunt (which proved to be a rape hunt) if they knew what was the purpose of the chace, of which we had just caught a glimpse through the carriage window. “ It is the country people (said one of the soldiers who acted as spokesman for the rest) who are running with a constable that has a warrant to execute upon a man, procured by a woman, who has been long in the family way by him, and now wants to force him to marry her, which the man does not wish to do, and therefore she has sworn a *rape* against him ; and he, upon hearing that the constable was approaching with the warrant which was to make an *honest woman* of the lady, has fled ; and the people that you see running with the constable, are in pursuit of him.” To this effect we received an account of the transaction from the soldiers ; and happening soon after to mention this circumstance to a Protestant clergyman in the neighbourhood, he conducted the inquiring stranger to the hall-steps of his glebe-house, and pointing with his finger towards a house of worship within view, (which proved to be the Catholic chapel) he asked the stranger did he see that chapel ? and on being answered in the affirmative—“ Well Sir,” said he, “ I have known twenty mar-

riages to have been solemnized *in one day* in that chapel upon charges of rape?"—that is, as the worthy minister might have added, with halters placed by the magistrates around the bridegroom's necks, as a short method of procuring *lawful fathers* for the forthcoming children, whosoever might have begotten them; *of which to be sure the magistrates could know nothing*, save and except as the ladies chose to swear! "Be hanged or marry your sweetheart my love," was the language of the warrant; and it could not be expected in such circumstances that any magistrate would say, "It is *my sweetheart* my love that I want you to marry." And is it thus that the people of this country are to be treated? Is it thus that a *criminal law* is to be made the instrument of ruin to the King's subjects, on the evidence of self convicted prostitutes, or of women rendered furious by a disappointment of their hopes. It is a melancholy thing to think, that in the nineteenth century of Christianity, and in an age and country so eminently enlightened, that laws made by barbarians in a remote and bloody age, should be retained among the *criminal* statutes of a Christian country in an age of reason; and that under the authority of such statutes, corrupt magistrates and vile prostitutes may plunge the King's (otherwise peaceable and well conducted) subjects into the vaults of a prison, and afterwards put them upon trial for their lives, for having given those women the kiss, which in ninety-nine cases out of every hundred, they have positively courted; and which if pure and chaste (as they usually affect to be) they need never have received; for there is a certain *repulsive power and severity of reproof*, in the countenance and manners of a woman of rigid virtue, that not only repels improper familiarity in its first approaches, but even deprives an ordinary libertine of the power of perpetrating an act of violence in which there can be no pleasure, as is evident from the law of nature, exhibited in the well known acts of inferior creatures, who have always recourse to coaxing and caresses (and never to physical force *alone*) in order to subdue the reluctance of the female.

We should like to know what opinion an intelligent Heathen would entertain of Christian senators, who retain such bloody laws as this among their *enlightened* statutes ! Or, of such magistrates as enforce those laws, to gratify women, who, to say the very least, have brought themselves into unpleasant circumstances by their own unguarded conduct ; and in most instances, by a free and wilful indulgence of the law of nature.

#### SPAS-DERRYCARN.

This county is said to abound with chalybeate and sulphureate springs, some of which are found on the lands of Derrycarn, the property of Francis Nesbitt, Esq., treasurer of the county.—These lands also abound with iron ore, of which a mine was once opened and extensively worked here. They are also supplied (as our notes instruct us) with fuel, free-stone, and bark for tanning ; and being situated on the banks of the Shannon (a navigable river, where manufactured goods could be boated on the spot) on the event of capital being embarked in this county, this district of the river will deserve the attention of the commercial interest.

There are 100 acres of timber on these lands, including oak, ash, bog-yew, and other valuable trees, besides a large tract of similar wood on the Castle Forbes estate, (the property of the Earl of Granard) which forms a junction with that of Derrycarn on the south side.

This latter property extends from the neighbourhood of Notley's Inn towards the village of Rusky on the river Shannon, (within view of the mail coach road between Dublin and Sligo) a distance of several English miles. At the village of Drummond it has a site for a mill on the river Eslin, which drops into the Shannon with a fall of seven feet.—In all these particulars, therefore, those lands are well circumstanced for trade, which we are sure would meet with every encouragement from the liberal proprietor of this place, who, no doubt, beholds with regret, the unor-



ganised condition of the rich resources of his county, including an active and peaceful population on the banks of a navigable river, without any adequate measure of capital and science, to render those resources available to the public good.

Rusky is the post town to Derrycarn.

We had almost forgot to mention a very great evil which prevails in Leitrim, and which is by no means peculiar to this county—namely, partnerships in plots of land.—It is an evil to which the rapid growth of families, and the total inequality of profitable employment to that increase, has given birth.—A small farmer, on the marriage of his children, must divide his land with them, as there are no factories in the country to employ the people.—These lands are frequently held in partnership, in the nature of a commonage, with equal right of stock and tillage, and being frequently transferred by the original holders to others, the quarrels (to say nothing of the consequent battery and bloodshed) that result from these partnerships, is frightful.—This is an evil that calls loudly upon the agents of estates, and upon all magistrates of christian consideration, to diminish, by interposing their influence to procure equal divisions of those lands, and an establishment of each person in the possession of his own plot, with the execution of such good mearing ditches between the parties, as would prevent trespass and preserve peace.

Although this is not a duty imposed upon magistrates by the authority of law, it is nevertheless one, which reason and conscience loudly claim from the humanity of resident gentlemen; and we are sure if they would take the trouble to exert their influence with the numerous parties that appear before them, upon quarrels of this nature, these latter would be prevailed on, in most instances, to submit to a division of their lands, which could be easily effected with the assistance of honest and intelligent arbitrators, residing near them.

## GARDEN-HILL,

(With observations on the advantages resulting to a county from the example and labours of industrious resident landlords.)

This is the seat of William Hassard, Esq. (the present treasurer of Fermanagh,) and being situated in a district of the county, romantically grand, and removed to a considerable distance from the splendid seats and more populous neighbourhood of Enniskillen; distinguished also by the waters of Lough Mc Naine (which communicate with Lough Erne, by the river Arney, and form a boundary to this property on the south) and by a great mountain district in the neighbourhood, whose treasures are said to be in a virgin state, constitute the lands of Garden-hill, both in reference to their scenery and soil, an object of interest to the Irish patriot, and worthy the attention of those members of the English interest, who are disposed to embark capital in Ireland, where a safe and proper theatre appears.

With the extent of the lands of Garden-hill we are unacquainted; but have heard from good authority, that more than 1000 acres of mountain are included in the tract of soil in possession of the proprietor of this seat. This mountain tract abounds with a species of limestone gravel, well calculated for the improvement of the mountain moor, which, thus renovated, becomes very grassy, and produces good oats and rye, but in a mere state of nature the surface is of little value. The arable lands are said to be based upon a stratum of limestone, and consequently they constitute an equally good corn and sheep soil.

Of this latter species of stock, Mr. Hassard observes, that a large proportion of these lands will feed five sheep (of 25 lbs. per quarter) to the acre, and a beef cow of 5 cwt. to the same.

Iron in particular is known to abound in certain of the mountains here, which were carefully explored during the life time of the proprietor's father; and as a communication between Lough Mc Naine and Lough Allen could be

opened by a single level; if minerals applicable to trade exist here, this district of Fermanagh might be made to participate in the benefits to be communicated to Leitrim, by a canal between Lough Allen and Lough Gill at Sligo.

The scenery of this neighbourhood is romantically grand—The lands beyond Lough Mc Naine, at the base of the mountains in the front view, have been tastefully planted, both by Mr. Hassard and the Earl of Enniskillen, whose estate is there, and whose various plantations uniting with the watery expanse of the lake, the lofty mountains beyond it, and an extensive tract of country, thus distinguished by the bold and beautiful of nature, the interest produced by an observation of this sequestered scene is deep and sensible.

The proprietor of Garden-hill is not one of those idle gentlemen, who occupy themselves in foreign tours, and an occasional residency in London; or with the mere amusements of their own unfortunate country, if by some singular accident they should chance to visit it! He is an industrious man of business; and in this capacity carries on an extensive trade with England in live stock (a certain proportion of which are prepared for market on his own lands) and agreeably to the English adage, “it is the master’s eye makes the horse,” Mr. Hassard very frequently, if not generally, attends the English market (to make sale of the stock thus prepared) in his own person.

Mr. Archdale of Riversdale (although not engaged in what is commonly termed *trade*) is spoken of in Fermanagh as a country gentleman of the same useful habits and propensities. It is these industrious, pains taking, plough plodding, mill building, mine hunting, timber planting, land reclaiming, and peasantry improving landlords, that are wanted in Ireland. Well accustomed to turn up the soil, and to feel by experience the labour that procures the crop, they would enter more feelingly into the interests of their country, and into the rights and comforts of the working population; and knowing the value of their soil, they would not despise the coal or the iron stone upon



which their pick axe or their plough share stumbled; nor the signs of more precious metals, if the mountain torrent should happen to wash down, through a ravine to the vale below, those smaller portions of precious ore, which are sent to them as indications of their duty, and of the bounty of the God of nature to their soil and people.

Garden-hill stands on a line of road which communicates between Enniskillen and Sligo; from the latter of which it is twenty-one Irish miles distant, and from the former, which is the post town to it, nearly twelve English miles.

#### COLEBROOK,

(With observations on minerals and tenures, and a brief notice of the Lisnaskea estate.)

Colebrook, in reference to the splendor of its edifice, furniture, and paintings, the extent of the demesne, and the value and variety of its timber, is a seat suited to the rank and fortune of its proprietor: but from the tame level on which it stands, it presents no other prospect to the eye, than that which is to be found within the narrow limits of its own lawn and plantation.

The house is an edifice somewhat in the Grecian style, having a lofty and splendid portico in front, supported by pillars of the Ionic order. The remarkably fine free-stone of which this noble colonnade is composed, is the produce of the Colebrook property; nor is this the only subterraneous treasure discoverable in the natural history of the soil, as the lands are said to abound with that species of coal already noticed, as being unfit for domestic use (at least unless it be combined with a better description of fuel) but well calculated for smelting iron, &c.: but as the quantity of peat attached to this property is said to be very considerable, this defect in the quality of its coal is not likely to be felt by the tenantry for at least a century to come.

That Fermanagh contains fine materials for building, the edifice just noticed, and divers others in this county, demonstrably prove—that minerals applicable to purposes of trade

do also exist here, may be fairly inferred, from the various discoveries that have been made, and more particularly from the coal mines formerly worked on the lands of Clonelly (but whether discontinued from a failure in the market, the money, the mineral, or the men, we did not learn). The indications of such wealth being, however, sufficiently strong to justify the lords of the soil in a system of research that shall place this question upon its true base, we trust when the improvements in the bar of Ballyshannon, and in the navigation of Lough Erne, now under consideration, have been completed, that they will employ able mining engineers to ascertain with precision, the nature and extent of their minerals applicable to purposes of trade; and if found to be such as would justify an outlay of capital in extensive works, that they will give due encouragement to the formation of companies on the banks of Lough Erne for that purpose.

During the election of 1830, the proprietor of Colebrook is said to have advanced to Enniskillen at the head of 300 of his freeholders, all as well mounted as himself, in order to put in his claim to the representation of that county, in which his property holds such a distinguished place. To those honest freeholders and other farmers, to whom his lands are parcelled out in small tracts of from ten to thirty acres, he grants leases of three lives or thirty-one years at moderate rents (*a title, which secures to the tenant the fruits of his industry*) and hence the obvious comfort of his freeholders, and the comparative exemption of his property from poverty and rags; and we believe the same may be said in truth of most of the other leading members of the landed interest in this county; although in reference to the tithe composition law, so much more reasonable in itself than tithe in kind (if indeed any modification of that tax be reasonable since the extinction of the Jewish system) and so much better calculated to hold the balance of justice fair between the tenant, the landlord and the clergy, we heard some hints concerning certain of those gentlemen that

did not do equal honour to the justice and generosity of their hearts.

With the tenures granted on the other properties, we are not quite so well informed as concerning those usually given on the Brookborough estate; but from the generally improved appearance of the county, we naturally concluded that the English short lease policy, so totally unsuitable to the circumstances of Ireland (which requires to be pushed forward in the march of improvement by strong encouragements) had not been generally adopted in this county.

Of the extent and natural history of the Lisnaskea estate, we received no information (and in most instances found it extremely difficult to collect facts of this nature) neither can we tell whether the proprietor is only an occasional, or a constant absentee from his country; but if the latter, we believe this is not the general practice of the proprietary of Fermanagh. Nevertheless from the appearance of divers farm-houses and homesteads on the Lisnaskea estate, an inference highly favourable to the policy by which that property is governed (or to the confidence which is reposed by the tenantry in the honour of the Creighton family) is certainly deducible; although, in relation to the tenures granted here, if the information which we received upon the spot may be depended on, they are those of one life only, or twenty-one years; a kind of lease, which, in many parts of Ireland, and with great reason, would not secure an outlay of the tenant's property in permanent improvements; and although experience may have taught the tenants on this estate that fortune has connected them with a family of good principles, we nevertheless maintain, from an extensive observation of the fruits of the short lease system in Ireland, that their tendency has been to check the progress of improvement in planting and building, and that in relation to tenants and their families, whose industry and good character have been fully proved, it is a narrow and illiberal policy.

The demesne of Colebrook contains about 500 acres, and



is perhaps the most distinguished feature of beauty, in a rural territory of 30,000 acres, of which Colebrook may be regarded as the seat of government.

A small river or rivulet, waters the demesne; but as nothing material appears to have been done to enlarge and beautify even that part of it which passes through the lawn in view of the house; and as it is surmounted by a little bridge in *ruins*, where a splendid Chinese bridge, and a spacious arm of the river, should have been exhibited to public view in the approach, it appears doubtful whether these objects should be regarded as an ornament or a *nuisance* to a seat so splendid.

Brookborough (a market or post town on this estate) is the seat of its post office. Colebrook is situated within about two English miles of that town, on a line of road which opens a communication between Belfast and Enniskillen by Fivemile town; and from Enniskillen, the capital of Fermanagh, it is distant about ten miles.

#### CASTLE COOLE.

(Observations on the utility of commercial surveys preparatory to manufactures and commerce. Serious address to the landed interest of Ulster.)

Castle-Coole, the splendid seat of the Earl of Belmore, (the present governor of Jamaica,) is situated within one Irish mile of the town of Enniskillen, on the mail coach road communicating between Ballyshannon and Dublin, by Cavan Kells and Navan; and Lisnaskea (by the appointment of Lord Corry, the Earl's eldest son, who is one of the representatives of this county) has been made the post town to it.

It is a most princely feature of improvement, in a portrait of that respectable county in which it maintains so distinguished a position; uniting at once the architectural splendour of a palace, with all those scenographic charms of mountain, wood and water, by which the Enniskillen section of Lough Erne and Fermanagh, stands so eminently distinguished in the topography of Ulster.

As we see no reason why the complimentary title of "Palace," should be conceded to a Bishop's residence, and withheld from that of a temporal Peer, who has expended a fortune in the erection of a house that does honour to his name and country; and which, in reference to the important appendages of wood, water, prospect, and demesne, far exceed in beauty, value and extent, the generality of those seats which have been created for the accommodation of our *spiritual* Peers on the ecclesiastical domains of this country. As we see no reason, we say, why this compliment should be paid to a Bishop's residence (now that the days of ecclesiastical monopoly are passing rapidly away) and withheld from that of a temporal Peer, merely because he is a plain honest Lord, who acknowledges he is a sinner like another man; so in the description of Castle Coole, we shall not hesitate to call Lord Belmore's house a palace, notwithstanding his Lordship may be a sinner and no Bishop; nor shall we withhold the same title from the *domicile* of the Earl of Enniskillen, whose seat deserves this distinction, although its noble owner is a sinner also; nor from that of General Archdale, who is another; nor from the seat of Sir Henry Brook, Bart. in the same county, who is probably as honest a sinner, and as little fit to be a Bishop as any of the other three; and for this just reason, because any one of these residences (namely Castle Coole, Florence Court, Castle, Archdale, and Colebrook,) is fit to entertain any Prince of any country; and we have no doubt, if some of the Princes of Germany were to arrive here and visit Castle Coole, in a tour through Ireland, but they would cordially support our protest against a church monopoly of Princely distinctions, in a reform of the nomenclature of our seats—for who can see the style of the mansion house of Castle Coole; the cheerful splendour of its apartments, the beauty of its furniture and paintings, the rich views of mountain, wood, and water, which it commands, the skill exhibited in the plan and retired position of the fine *suite* of offices attached to the house; and, in a word, the order and perfection of all

the parts which unite to constitute the *tout en semble* of that seat, so signally blending together the influence of the soft and the sublime. Who, after contemplating the extent and symmetry of a noble palace built of Portland stone, and standing on the summit of a fine elevation, over a landscape pregnant with beauty, life, and animation.—After traversing the apartments and piazzas, and enjoying from thence and from the lawn, the various views of mountain, wood and water which the scene presents.—After feasting his eyes with the chaste and expanded bosom of a crystal lake in the demesne, which (like the influence of the planet Venus upon the celestial system, or of that system upon the face of nature in an autumn evening scene) reflects the sparkling beauty of its silver surface upon *gently swelling* lawns, richly wooded in the distance, and exhibiting such varied views, as are well calculated to gratify that patriot passion for the picturesque, which hangs with fondest and sweetest pleasure upon the scenes of HOME, and neither sighs for the romantic of Switzerland, nor for the terrific of the Pyrenees.—Who that has witnessed these beauties, and possesses a soul of sensibility and a patriot's heart, but will say with us, that the country which abounds with such scenes as this; and where the splendid works of nature at Wicklow and Killarney (that have no parallel for beauty in these parts of Europe) are always within view.—Who that knows these scenes, and knows, as we do, the *contempt* with which that country has been treated by her apostate lords; her beauties bartered for foreign pleasures, and her numerous treasures trampled under foot!—Who, with these threefold advantages of Ireland, her beauty, her fecundity, and her wealth, placed upon the one hand—with her poverty, destitution, and the foreign pleasures of her lords, placed upon the other.—Who that sees the remote point of ruin to which this foreign policy will lead in the progress of its exhausting draught, and then raises his eyes to England (a speck like our own upon the globe) and contemplates the wealth and glory to which that country has raised itself by its union,



industry, and arts; while Ireland, with superior resources, has sunk into ruin and decay!—Who with the love of country, and the goal in view, to which this “road to ruin” leads, and in which Ireland has been steadily travelling *downwards* for the last twenty years.—Who that with a broken heart, and a tearful eye fixed upon this goal, waiting for the fatal moment when the vessel shall be broken at the cistern, but will remember those appropriate words of Pantheus to Æneas, when he saw the Greeks revelling in the flames of Troy,

“Venit summa dies et ineluctabile tempus!”\*

or those of Lacoön, when he beheld the infatuation of the Trojans, contrary to his expostulation, dragging in the wooden horse,

—“O miseri, quæ dementia, cives!”† — *Virgil, Book 2.*

The demesne of Castle Coole embraces 1500 Irish acres, thus richly wooded, watered and improved; and the entire property of which it is a part, about 20,000 acres of the same measurement, including about 5000 acres of bog and mountain.

The top soil of this demesne (and the same may be said of various other portions of the soil of this county), is soft and retentive of water, and therefore more eminently bountiful to the planter of trees and the grower of green crops, than to the grain farmer. The water of which we speak, is not underwater, proceeding from subterraneous springs that may be discharged through main drains into a bog or river, (and which are sometimes found in nutritive pastures and rich meadows) but a surface water peculiar to cold soils (such for instance as that part of Meath which approximates with Dublin, and exhibits the appearance of a poor whitish sterile clay) and for lands of this class, a judicious system of shallow surface drains with falls, and the liberal use of a

\* Our last day has come, and our lamentable period has arrived!

† O miserable citizens, what a madness is this!

rich lime compost; or burning the surface for manure (if the soil be deep) are perhaps the best remedies.

In reference to the mountain district on this property, we could not learn that it has ever been regularly explored by mining engineers; and, consequently, its mineral treasures, if it have any, are but little known; and yet the expense of getting executed by *subscription*, a geological survey and map of the Fermanagh mountains would be inconsiderable. Should the navigation of Lough Erne be completed, and the obstacles to trade in the bar of Ballyshannon once removed, this geological survey of Fermanagh would be of the utmost importance to the future commercial interests of that county; since it is not from agriculture that a country derives its wealth, but from manufactures and commerce, to which the progress of Scotland in science and all useful learning, has been rendered so eminently tributary, that though her soil is most wretched, and her resources (by the best accounts we have received of them) many degrees behind those of Ireland; still by her rapid march in knowledge, and her unremitting application of that knowledge to the slender resources which she has, she has far outstripped our country in the race of trade, and is now actually advancing in wealth, while we are as rapidly sinking into the depths of insolvency and decay!

The few discoveries of mineral wealth that have been made in this county, in the absence of any survey, would appear to justify a more general system of research; and that such must precede any well organised plan of mining and pottery, or any similar branch of manufacture, is self-evident; and yet up to this period, no such survey has been made.

That the formation of companies in England for the introduction of capital into this country (a hope held out largely to her by the British minister at the period of the union) has been *the only hope* of Ireland since the failure of her linen manufacture, and the drain upon her resources by the absentee system; is now very little short of self-

evident; and if any scepticism could remain upon this subject, a knowledge of what the North of Ireland *was* before that act took place, and what she now *is* (and we remember both) would effectually remove it.

To facilitate this object, a literary periodical, essentially devoted to the interests of Ireland, should be established in London, as a medium of correspondence between the commercial interest of England and the landed interest of Ireland; and through which, all difficulties resting upon this subject might be met, all useful information communicated, and the advantages that would result to both countries from this amalgamation of interest, explained and established.

But to what purpose are literary works, in reference to any property or county in Ireland, when no commercial survey (embracing the soils, waters, and minerals, applicable to purposes of trade) has yet been completed; where no association exists to promote this necessary department of research; where very few gentlemen appear to have devoted any portion of their time and attention to an examination of the strata of their own mountains, or to any of the indications of mineral wealth which those mountains are reported to contain; and where even the provincial papers that announce the labours of the patriot, are either totally overlooked, or heard with a yawning indifference, that perfectly harmonises with all the other proofs of that love of ease and pleasure, which renders the bounty of nature to our country useless, which enables every other country to outstrip ours in the march of trade; and thus it is that Scotland with a most wretched soil, and in its other resources vastly inferior to Ireland, has passed us by with a smile of contempt in the progress of improvement; and, by persevering industry, procured for herself a position in the republic of trade and science, to which a union of Ireland's sons, and a total oblivion of their party feuds, would not enable this country to arrive in less than two centuries.

We shall conclude these observations with an appropriate



quotation from the Roman Satirist, as it contains a useful hint to the Lords of our destiny.

“In cicere, atque fabâ, bona tu perdasque lupinis,  
Latus ut in circo spatieri, et æneus ut stes,  
Nudus agris, nudus nummis, insane, paternis ?”

*Hor. Sat. 3, Lib. 2, L. 185.*

Will you in largesses exhaust your store,  
That you may proudly stalk the circus o'er ?  
Or in the capitol embronz'd may stand,  
Spoil'd of your fortunes and paternal land ?

#### CASTLE ARCHDALE,

(Scenery from thence to Belleek.)

This is the denomination of the seat of General Mervyn Archdale, one of the representatives of this county in the Imperial Parliament. It stands over a scene richly decorated with the mountains of Fermanagh, the waters of Lough Erne, and divers beautifully planted seats on the distant shore; about nine miles north of Enniskillen, which is the post town to it, and on a line of road which opens a communication between that town and the village of Pettigo in the same county.

It derives its name from the castle of the Archdale family, of which an interesting ruin is still standing; and is seen by the traveller on the public road just noticed, peeping through the plantations which enrich and decorate the demesne, as a standing monument of the claims of this seat to the venerable recollections of antiquity.

In the progress of our review of this county, we waited upon the proprietor of this seat, who had the politeness to conduct us through the beautiful gardens of the castle; which are in perfectly good keeping with the extent of the demesne, the value and variety of the timber, the magnificence of the scenery, the respectability of the modern mansion house; and with the noble site on which this building stands, over the splendid land and water scene already mentioned. Thus distinguished by the beauties of art and nature, which are here eminently combined,

Castle Archdale may be regarded as the most conspicuous feature of improvement on that shore of the Lough, to which the road from Enniskillen to Pettigo forms the traveller's outline in his passage through this county.

Those who are anxious to see the seats and scenery of Lough Erne to advantage, and who are traversing the County of Fermanagh for that purpose, are recommended (in their progress from Enniskillen to Pettigo) to turn to the left a little beyond Castle Archdale demesne, by a road which conducts the passenger from the main road between those towns to the lodge of a Mr. Humphrey's, called Clareview; and if, in this little drive of one or two miles, they do not find three views of mountain wood, and water, (with which Castle Archdale is intimately connected) exhibiting as chaste a combination of the sublime and beautiful of art and nature, as the picturesque of this or any other section of the Lough can shew (on a scale of similar extent) why then we must resign all proud pretensions to that species of sight, sensibility, and keen discrimination, by which alone the mystic influence of those scenes that are the glory of perspective, can be adequately tasted, distinguished, and described.

Indeed, if we were to have recourse to the impassioned language of an enthusiastic admirer of Nature (and a very slight acquaintance with our taste would convince the reader that we are no stoics when living beauty is in view) we would say, and not altogether without a patriotic interest in the honour of the place, that we could not but lament to find, that Castle-Archdale should be *dependent on so obscure a road as this*, for the only proper views that can be taken of itself in its best aspect, and of the still more extensive and splendid scenery of Lough Erne and the distant mountains, with which it is so intimately and yet magnificently grouped, in the ichnography and ornaments of this fine picture.

Here the pencil would find a subject for its finest skill. But why do we talk of the pencil or the canvas, when such scenes as these are to be imprinted upon the mind. — We

have always admired the art of painting, and wished to see the industry encouraged, by which these puny attempts to imitate nature, have given profit and employment to a mild and ingenious class of our fellow-citizens in the republic of taste and talent. But the attempts of these ingenious men, however splendid, to paint the magnificent scenes in which we had personally luxuriated, and of whose sweets the tincture has never left our mind; always appeared so extremely contemptible in comparison of the scenes themselves, that we could never afford more than a smile of pity to the limited intellect that was capable of being entangled and carried captive, in the puny cobweb chains that were thus woven to entrap them by the painters of the canvas! We do not apply this remark to the faithful execution of a magnificent building, a human portrait, or any other *single* work of art or nature; for an accurate delineation of these is strictly within the limits of the painter's art, and it is his *exclusive* province faithfully to represent them. But when the scenes of Wicklow, Killarney, or even those of Lough Erne, are to be imprinted upon the human imagination, will the dwarf be able to carry the elephant upon his back, or the elephant the globe? (as some poor simple children of nature used to imagine was the pedestal that sustained it!)—When indeed the elephant shall be found strong enough to sustain the globe, and the tortoise the elephant, (as these children of Nature thought) then the painter of landscapes will be able to convey the mighty scenes of Wicklow and Killarney faithfully to the eye upon his canvas; but until then we conceive, without any imputation of defective talent (for the defect lies not in the painter, but in the nature and materials of his art) the artist will be able to do no more than to embellish a fine room, give a momentary amusement to the eye, and furnish *ocular* evidence to the world, that it is not in the province of his art, successfully to represent those works, in which Nature herself, for the full display of her own magnificent design, has been obliged to select for the scene of her operations, a spacious theatre, which (like



the monuments of power and beauty that she rears upon it) mocks with the majesty of uncreated power, the pigmy efforts of the puny painter's skill.

After having thus spoken of the feeble powers of the pencil (which within the limited range of *any single object*, can give an infinitely more perfect imitation of art or nature than any written description) it may be deemed presumptuous to assert, that it is the province of the poet, and *his only*, to produce upon the absent mind, the best impression that can be produced by art, of any scene, in which the beauties of space, variety, and bold contrast, are eminently united. We very well understand the extremely poor and partial power of creating representative images, which we ourselves have received from Nature; and we know too well what constitutes the poet's lofty name to have the presumption to assume it. We know also that education of the highest order is necessary to the full development of the capabilities even of lofty genius, in an age wherein science is marching forward towards perfection, and a taste for the fine arts is universally cultivated in all the distinguished walks of life. Thus feeling correctly concerning the character and qualifications of a poet, in such an age as this; and recollecting that, in addition to the scanty measure of our genius, that the studies of our early life at Ballitore, were not so much directed to the flowery walks of literature, as to the sciences connected with the useful walks of trade; hence, in attempting to give the outlines of some fine scenes which we have visited in our travels, we have felt it safe to move steadily upon that lowly but firm ground of the historian, upon which no critic archer can take us down; and if, with an eye frequently fixed upon the loftiest works of Nature, whose historian we are, we are sometimes, in a moment of forgetfulness, drawn by her attractive power from our lowly station into her giddy heights; the moment that we become sensible of the dangerous elevation into which she has raised us by her illusions, we look hastily around to see that none of the London or Edinburgh reviewers are in

sight; and thankful for finding the coast clear of those cunning archers (*who take good care to write no books themselves*) we let ourselves down by a silken cord, which Nature, after laughing at our confusion, always has the charity to lend us, and then descending by slow gradations upon *terra firma*, when safely landed, we shrug our shoulders, and vow by the clods of the valley, and the waters of St. Bridget's well, that we will fly no more towards those giddy heights.

But although we thus confess ourselves unequal to the poet's lofty task, and feel security only in the historian's beaten track of simple facts, still the proposition stands good, that no painter can discharge the debt which is due to Nature's extended works, and that it is the province of the poet, and his only, to transmit them, by faithful images, to the mental eye. Should this axiom be disputed by the painters of the day, we shall take the liberty of reminding them that the images of a Milton and a Byron, are before the world. And we shall add, that, the whole tribe of painters, with Reynolds, Raphael, and Michael Angelo at their back, would not be able to paint the scenes which those poets have made immortal by their genius, and which cannot be read by any one competent to understand them, without producing a transmigration of the mind into regions, of which the painter cannot give the most remote conception upon his canvass; notwithstanding that the authors of those scenes (big with momentous characters and actions) have placed them in living and *imperishable colours* before the eye and intellect of all succeeding ages.

We remember one night having found a little book on our toilet, (at a gentleman's house where we slept in the progress of our travels) entitled "Warner's Walks through Wales."—We never saw that book before nor since; and had only time to read a few pages of it before we retired fatigued to rest. The impression, however, produced upon our mind, by the short description of a single scene which the writer visited, was so vivid and deeply interesting as to

produce a sensation upon dropping into the arms of Morpheus, that we would not have exchanged for a prospect of all the paintings in the gallery of Athens. The subject was a mountain scene, with divers rural objects in the neighbouring valley; and the whole was so vividly described, as to imbue the imagination with the same interest and feelings, (you may say charming illusion if you please) as if the reader had accompanied the author in his walks, surveyed with him the altitude of the mountain, visited the aqueduct, traversed with him the banks of a canal, or the plain which conducted to a celebrated ruin; and mingling with the honest country people in the evening dance upon the verdant sod, collected such images of the place and people, as on their arrival at the next Inn, weary with their pleasurable toils, gave fancy an opportunity of treating them to a second edition of "Warner's Walks through Wales," while sweetly sleeping under the enchanting influence of those poppies, which Morpheus had kindly scattered over their welcome couch. It was the description of a rural scene so faithful to nature, as to communicate her incomparable influence to the reader's feelings, that produced a charm, which remains even to this day; although the incidents of the scene are almost forgotten in the multitude of other and more important objects which have since engaged the reader's mind; but in the nature and duration of the *charm*, the poet's power is found; and what that power is, we shall not attempt describing to the *stupid*, for they would not understand it; and to the child of nature it is needless, because she feels it within herself.

Advancing from Pettigo towards the village of Belleek, along the banks of Lough Erne; a new and imposing spectacle commences its operations on the eye, with the woods of Castle Calwell, the seat of Major Bloomfield, immediately on the margin of the lake. In a short time the Church of Belleek, standing on a proud elevation at the north-west extremity of Lough Erne, is seen raising its lofty tower above the world of wood and water at its base,



adding a feature of gothic grandeur to the scene, calling back the memory and imagination to past ages, and deceiving the eye with an impression that this may be the tower of an ancient castle, where the feudal lord of the scene, once exercised his despotic jurisdiction, looked down with conscious pride upon his watery dominion (exhibiting at that place a beautiful crystal expanse of twenty British miles, richly studded with wooded islands) and upon the cottages and cultivated fields of his vassals upon the distant shores; all reposing in silent tranquillity under the lofty shadow of the mountains of Donegal, which formed a boundary to his ancient territory on the north; but have now the honour of filling the surrounding country with thousands of those fiery *spirits*, which spread fits of idiotism and madness in every family and hamlet, where they obtain an ascendant over reason in the domestic government of the place.\*

The properties, of which Castle Archdale may be considered as the seat of government, are situated in the counties of Fermanagh and Tyrone. We could neither ascertain their boundaries, their measurement, nor the proportions of mountain bog and arable which they contain; and of their commercial resources we could only learn that the lands contain divers lakes, and rivers with falls for mills, together with indications of coal and other minerals on certain parts of these estates; but concerning the precise places where these indications exist, or by whom discovered, the written answers to our queries say nothing.

These answers however inform us, that nearly the whole barony of Omagh, in the county of Tyrone, formerly belonged to the Mervyn family, and that it now pays a chief rent to the proprietor of this seat, as the living representative of that family; and as they close with the following remark, viz. "the demesnes and islands in Lough Erne contain 1000 acres," the reader will naturally infer that these demesnes and islands belong to the Mervyn property, or

\* The mountains of Donegal, reputed to be famous for the manufacture of illicit *spirits*.

why mention them in the skeleton report of that property with which the agent favoured us ?

In relation to the state of the population on the Archdale estates, which according to the reports before us contain "towns and villages, whose inhabitants are comfortable and industrious," we have already offered our opinion, founded on the obvious aspect of the country ; and more particularly (in reference to these properties) on that of Trillick, a rising village already noticed in this review ; and for further information on this subject, we refer the reader to the general remarks with which we ushered in our local descriptions of this county.

#### FLORENCE COURT.

This splendid seat of the Earl of Enniskillen, stands upon a plain, romantically connected with a chain of hills that cover it on the rear ; while two more BOLD and BEAUTIFUL elevations ornamentally planted, called Benaghlin and Cuilca (pronounced Queelka by the country people) invest the house and lawn with all the mighty majesty of shade, and even diffuse an influence of beauty over that entire plain, of which Florence Court, considered as a work of ART, is the most conspicuous and distinguished ornament.

The view of this seat, from an elevation on the road within a few miles of Florence Court, as you approach it from Enniskillen, is open and distinct. The house standing upon a plain, the country in the front view, and the hills which cover them on the rear, are all very plainly distinguished in this prospect ; but still in comparison of the imposing effect of the same scene, when standing on the lawn of Florence court in front of the house, under the hills just noticed (and which in this intimate connection are seen in all their grandeur) that remote prospect from a position on the road some miles distant, sinks into utter insignificance.

Of the extent or natural history of this place (with the exception of a report of iron and marble having been dis-

covered on the lands of Lord Enniskillen, as already noticed in our notes on this county) we know nothing, as we saw no statistical or geological history of the place, nor do we believe, from all that we could learn, that any such survey of the Enniskillen property has been yet executed.

Florence Court stands on a line of road which opens a communication between Sligo (the capital of the county of that name) and Belturbet, a market and post town in the County of Cavan, at the distance of about nine English miles from Enniskillen, which is the post town to it.

#### DERRYBRUSK HOUSE.

This is the seat of John Deering, Esq., K. C. and the observation of this rapidly improving place afforded us much gratification. Although it does not stand in the very first rank of rural *magnificence* in this county; still it unites so many proofs of judgment and good taste in its internal arrangements (some of which shall be particularly noticed). And in the aspect of divers handsome cottages and lodges, with their appropriate plantations, scattered through the neighbouring country, such evidences of the existence of a happy and independent yeomanry, as to render the discharge of our duty to this interesting feature of the country, a source of gratification to ourselves.

The approach to this recently regenerated seat, from the town of Enniskillen, is by the mail coach road which opens a communication from that town to Dublin (by Cavan Kells and Navan). It stands on the eastern shore of Lough Erne, almost surrounded by water, and from divers beautiful elevations on the demesne, it commands so many and varied views of the sublime and beautiful of art and nature, including a generous proportion of the scenery of the Lough, a bold mountain outline of many miles in circumference, a noble hill beyond the town of Cavan (more than twenty miles from the scene of observation) the princely seats of Castle Coole and Florence Court; with so many minor features of beauty and improvement, as to constitute Derry-



brusk, if not the most splendid, yet certainly one of the most interesting and rapidly improving places in this fine county.

The demesne, embracing a peninsula of about 200 acres, extends, in a kind of oblong figure, from the public road to a remote point of the lake, a distance of nearly two English miles. The soil, like most others in this district, is, by nature, soft and spewy, the redundant water proceeding, in *some* instances, from deep springs, which have been subverted by drains coming at their source, and by minor drains communicating between the main channels and the lake, for all of which there is a good fall from the elevated lands to the Lough beneath them: and besides these deeper and larger drains, shallow surface drains have been executed and proved useful in carrying off the *surface* water; and if the proprietor will try the effect of manuring the lands, thus dried by draining, with a compost of *old* clay, &c. strongly impregnated with lime, we are deeply deceived if it will not warm, enrich, and advance this soil from ten to twenty per cent. beyond the present measure of its productive power.

We were very much surprised to see, not only black store cattle, which are hardy and have good hide (and will therefore thrive on cold spewy soils) but also sheep (the tenderest of all stock) on the lands of Derrybrusk, and apparently doing well. As dry limestone soils are, however, well known to be the best adapted to the health and improvement of these latter, we think this ought to operate as an additional inducement to Mr. Deering to try the lime compost that we have just mentioned, in the benefit of which his crops also would largely participate, as a very small experiment in the first instance would satisfactorily prove to him.

There is evident proof of a mineral tendency in the substrata of these lands, from the fact of a gentle chalybeate infusion being perceptible in the springs with which the soil abounds; one of which (a healthful water in common

use) we tasted at its source, and found it evidently impregnated with iron.

Limestone and freestone of good quality, are brought here from the neighbouring country, but are not indigenous to these lands; nor does any river with falls for mills pass through them, so that they appear to have been intended by nature, rather for pastoral than for commercial purposes, although certainly Lough Erne at their base, would furnish useful facilities for the conveyance of manufactured goods to market, if such goods were there.

Derrybrusk is distant about four miles from Enniskillen, which is the post town to it.

#### BELLEVUE.

Bellevue, the seat of Captain Knox, stands within a short distance of the mail coach road communicating between Ballyshannon and Dublin, within two miles of Enniskillen, which is the post town to it.

The approach is by a superb avenue, which commands a most interesting view of Lough Erne, and Lisgoole Abbey on the distant shore; and from the nobly elevated site upon which the house stands, the varied scenery of the Lough, in the opposite direction, is distinctly seen.

To the excellent mansion house, offices, and gardens, forty Irish acres of demesne are appended, and unite with the various improvements on its proud platform, to constitute Bellevue a most gentlemanly residence in this fine neighbourhood.

#### LISGOOLE ABBEY.

This seat (which derives its name from the site of an ancient abbey on which the house stands, and from those called "the abbey lands," formerly connected with it) is the residence of Michael Jones, Esq. It comprehends a good family edifice *modernised*; and 400 Irish plantation acres of a soil peculiarly adapted to the growth of vegetable plants, and producing ash and other timber of the first quality.

It stands on the eastern shore of Lough Erne, within a few miles of Enniskillen, the capital of the county ; and in addition to this fine sheet of water, which washes the base of Lisgoole lawn, the new canal proposed to be opened from hence to Lough Neagh, is expected to form a junction with Lough Erne at this place, within view of the lawn of this beautifully secluded seat of antiquity, which will derive a new feature of crystalline beauty and interest, from this long and anxiously expected "*meeting of the waters.*"

There is no fall adapted to the movement of machinery, on that *slender* arm of the Lough, which sweeps round the lawn of Lisgoole Abbey ; nor could we learn that any indications of minerals applicable to trade had been discovered here—but the truth is, we believe, *they were never sought for!* This would not surprise us if the old monks of the abbey were now living there ; as they would find plenty of people to supply them with the necessaries of life without taking thought for the morrow. But in these modern days, in which a certain proportion of the population are every thing but *eating each other* (and the *trade in strangulation* and dead bodies now carried on, is at least equal to the crime of Anthropophagy) this inattention to the resources of the soil, and their application to the improvement of the country and the employment of the people, is a singular oversight on the part of intelligent gentlemen, whose whole stake is in the soil of Ireland, and who are perfectly capable of perceiving the *end* to which a total loss of trade would conduct that country.

The soil of Lisgoole Abbey being thus maintained in that *virgin* state in which the monks left it, is now chiefly distinguishable for its pastoral uses, its picturesque connection with Lough Erne, and those reminiscences of the venerable of our ancient institutions, with which its history is so intimately connected.

The elegantly planted lawns of Bellevue, Castle Coole, and Killyhavlin, beyond the lake, are in full prospect, and unite with this charming water to constitute the picturesque



of this most interesting scene, which is situated within a mile and a half of a new line of road, now opening between Enniskillen and Sligo, by Florence Court; and the town of Enniskillen, from which the Abbey is about four miles distant, is the post town to it.

#### RIVERSDALE.

This seat of Edward Archdale, Esq., is a constituent of the see lands of Clogher, which, according to our information, has been for two centuries in possession of the Archdale family. It embraces an excellent new built mansion house, at a due distance from the road, and on a good site for commanding prospect.—The home view is ornamentally planted.—The lawn extensive and handsomely improved.—There is an excellent flour mill and corn mill, on a river which passes through these lands; and nearly 200 acres of a good vegetable and corn soil. This seat commands an interesting view of the distant mountains, and is situated near the principal road communicating between Enniskillen and the towns of Pettigo and Donegal, at the distance of about four Irish miles from Enniskillen, which is the post town to it.

No minerals applicable to trade are known to exist here; consequently the mills already noticed, and that proportion of the produce of the soil which is sent to market, constitute the whole of its commercial history.

#### CROCKNACRIEVE.

This is the seat and fee farm of John Johnston, Esq., and comprehends a nice new built house on the summit of a noble elevation, standing above a demesne of about 100 Irish plantation acres, beautifully dressed and planted. It is situated on the post and circuit road (communicating by the town of Trillick on General Archdale's property) between Omagh and Enniskillen, the capitals of two counties. And at the rear of the concern, another main road communicates

between Enniskillen and Derry, (by Strabane) through Irvinestown and Drumquin.

The soil is well adapted to the growth of wheat and other corn crops; and trees and vegetable plants of all classes, are said to thrive extremely well here.

Enniskillen, from which this seat is distant about five English miles, is the post town to it.

#### JAMESTOWN.

This is the seat of George Lendrum, Esq., and comprehends a neat mansion house, and about 200 acres of a light dry soil ornamentally planted. It is said to constitute a wholesome walk for sheep and young black cattle; and though dry, to be favourable to the growth of trees.

It stands on that called the circuit road, noticed in our last description (so called because the judges and lawyers passed over it in the Autumn of 1830, in their progress from Omagh to Enniskillen) and is distant from the latter town, which is the post town to it, about six Irish miles.

#### ROSSFAD.

This is the ancient name of a town land, held as a fee farm by Major Richardson—and over the crystal bosom of Lough Erne, upon whose shore it stands, it commands a very fine view of the elegantly planted seat of the Marquis of Ely, beyond the water.

It is a small but interesting feature of improvement in the general scenery of the Lough, and had the level lawn which sustains the house, in a position horizontal with the lake, provided a lofty mount as a site for the mansion house, with gradually sloping banks towards Lough Erne, upon one side, and the public road communicating between Enniskillen and Castle Archdale upon the other; then Rossfad, (proudly elevated above the fine land and water scene which surrounds it) would have been a still more distinguished feature of beauty and improvement on that interesting line of road, which forms an outline to the scenery of the Lough,

in your progress from Enniskillen to Ballyshannon, by Castle Archdale and Pettigo.

Situated however as it is, the view from the spacious level lawn to the Lough, and to the scenery on the distant shore, is open, calm and interesting; deriving the tranquillizing power of its chaste and unimpassioned attractions, chiefly from the influence of nature. In the family property of Major Richardson, (situated in another section of the region of this Lough) there is a large tract of mountain which has never been explored. Should this be found to contain clays and minerals applicable to trade; on the event of capital being embarked here, these mountains may yet become an appendage of great value to that property, of which they now form a partially neglected feature.

No river with falls for the movement of machinery passes through the lands of Rossfad; nor have mineral treasures of any kind been sought for, or found, in these properties, that we could hear of.

Enniskillen, from which this seat is about five English miles distant, is the post town to it.

#### GRAAN-HOUSE.

Graan-house is a respectable feature of the Fermanagh estate, of General Archdale; and is the seat of Adam Nixon, Esq., clerk of the peace for the county of Fermanagh; and we believe for that of Tyrone also, but are not quite certain as to this latter county.

It stands on a proudly elevated lawn of thirty-four Irish acres, apparently well cultivated, and embellished with useful and ornamental trees. It commands a pleasing prospect of Castle Coole (the seat of the Earl of Belmore) and of Patora, a school splendidly endowed, and standing on a noble elevation above the town of Enniskillen. Also a *glimpse* of that Lough which is the glory of Fermanagh, and which (though the spot that is seen is but as a speck in the ocean) communicates a ray of beauty and brightness to this little scene.



Graan-house constitutes an interesting retreat from the noise and bustle of Enniskillen, the seat of office—more particularly on the evenings of those solemn days, when *the books are open and the judgment sits*; and when the “Thrust Outs, Demurrers, and Daily Orators,” of the law, having no hope in this life, repair with broken hearts to the taverns of the town, to drown the last surviving remnant of their reason and their fortunes, in those seas of burning fluid, that are known in these countries by the name of “Scotland and Ireland’s *blue ruin*.”

This comfortable and well circumstanced retreat, may be regarded as a pretty fair specimen of the numerous respectable homesteads of the yeomen of Fermanagh, that are scattered over the face of all the principal estates in that county. It is distant from Enniskillen, which is the post town to it, about two miles.

#### HOLLYBROOK.

This is the seat of Andrew Nixon, Esq. (brother to the gentleman last noticed) and is a respectable feature of improvement on the Lisnaskea estate, the property of Colonel Creighton. The dwelling house (which is a very comfortable edifice, and with its various appendages, another good specimen of the respectability of the tenantry of this county) stands near the public road which forms a boundary to it, on the summit of a lawn that descends in a glacis to the river of Lisnaskea, which sweeps round it. This river, though by no means a water of high distinction in the geography of the county, Mr. Nixon observes, contains an abundant supply of water and falls of ample force for the accommodation of mills. It derives its name from the village of Lisnaskea, through which it passes in its descent from the mountains; and though not a water of high pretensions to fame (as we have just observed) is nevertheless deserving of notice, in an estimate of the facilities for future trade which this county possesses.

Hollybrook stands on the old road which opens a commu-

nication between Enniskillen and Cavan, ten Irish miles from the former, and fifteen from the latter; and Lisnaskea, in its immediate neighbourhood, is the post town to it.

#### CURRAGH.

This is a cottage beauty, situated on the old road noticed in our last description. It is the seat of Wm. Chartres, Esq., and stands on a demesne of forty Irish acres, planted, improved, and beautified by a fine prospect of the neighbouring country. It is distant from Enniskillen, about seven English miles, and four from Lisnaskea, which is the post town to it.

#### FORPHY HOUSE.

This is a neat new villa, comprehending a handsome edifice, and seventeen acres of an ornamentally planted farm, commanding an extensive prospect of the distant mountains.

It is the seat of Henry Leslie, Esq., and is a pretty feature of improvement on the Leslie estate, situated near the old road noticed in our last description. Lisnaskea, in its immediate neighbourhood, is the post town to it.

#### KILLYHLAVIN COTTAGE.

This is the denomination of an extensive cottage farm of 3 or 400 acres, held under the Earl of Belmore, by Richard Deane, Esq., his Lordship's agent.

It stands in the immediate neighbourhood of Enniskillen, on the margin of a lake, which contributes to the picturesque of this cottage scene, when inspected on the spot; but the effect of this water upon the home view would have been much greater, if the cottage instead of standing upon *a low site near the margin of the lake*, had been erected on the summit of a tract of open and elevated land under which it now lies buried and concealed from public view.

With a more elevated site for a new and handsome edifice in the cottage style, with plantations suited to the geography of the land and water; the superior lustre of the lake, when

viewed from this proud position through a vista in its wood, in connection with the beauty of the surrounding country, which it would then enjoy, and of which it is now totally deprived; altogether united, would add a hundred a-year to the value of this place, if it were to be disposed of when thus finished, to a man of taste and fortune; and one thousand pounds at most, would accomplish all that we have now mentioned.

Enniskillen, in its immediate neighbourhood, is, of course, the post town to this farm.

#### LISBOFIN.

This is the seat of Charles Fausset, Esq., and by virtue of his valuable improvements, has been made a very respectable feature of the Archdale property; in the honour of whose family a proof of high confidence has been here exhibited, by the liberal sum expended in permanent improvements on a lease of three lives or thirty-one years; which though a just and generous tenure, will, in all probability, leave behind it, buildings and plantations of still considerable value.

Lisbofin comprehends a handsome new edifice in the villa style, standing on the summit of a gentle elevation over a farm of 100 acres, which commands the prospect of an open landscape extending to that lofty elevation which is known by the name of Knockninny, to the lofty lands beyond Lough Mc Naine, to the Tophet mountain beyond Enniskillen, to the summit of Brucehill beyond Cavan, (20 miles distant) and in its own neighbourhood, to the fine plantations of Florence Court; and various other improvements by which the scenery is enriched.

The soil is grassy, and well adapted to the growth of vegetable plants, and to a run for store cattle; to which latter use it is chiefly appropriated.

The distance from hence to Enniskillen, which is the post town to this seat, is four Irish miles.



## MAGHERAMENA.

This is the seat and part of the estate of Robert Johnston, Esq. K. C. It stands in the immediate vicinity of Lough Erne, on a line of road which communicates between Enniskillen and Ballyshannon, by the villages of Pettigo and Belleek; and although situated on a plain, it commands an open prospect of the lake, the river of Castle Archdale, and of a grand mountain outline, by which a large tract of country is bounded on the distant shore. Nevertheless the tame level on which the house stands is unfavourable to artificial embellishment, and the chief value of this plain unadorned property, is found in its good lime-stone soil, and in certain facilities for trade which it obviously possesses.

Magheramena estate embraces a tract of about 400 Irish acres, of which upwards of 100 are appended to the house, in the character of a demesne and home farm. The uplands are composed of a dry lime-stone soil, producing good corn crops, and constituting a sound and nutritive sheep walk; and there is a sufficiency of turbary attached to the concern for *present* consumption; but the decline of this useful soil for fuel is now perceptible; and in another century, it is probable coal will be much wanted in this and other districts, to supply the deficiency of the rapidly disappearing peat.

We could not learn that any minerals have yet been found or sought for in these lands; but that they are well circumstanced for trade, if capital should be embarked in manufactures on the shores of Lough Erne; and equally so for the conveyance of agricultural produce and live stock to the English market, may be inferred from their close connection with this Lough, and from their proximity to the port of Ballyshannon.

This property is distant from Enniskillen twenty-three Irish miles; from Pettigo about seven; from Belleek two, and from Ballyshannon, in the county of Donegal, which is the post town to it, five Irish miles.

## THE ROCKFELT PROPERTY.

The Rockfelt *property* (if we may so denominate it, as it pays a small chief rent to the lord of the soil) comprehends, according to our information, upwards of 400 Irish acres, let by modern leases in the *farm way* at about forty shillings per acre, (a rent by no means uncommon in the *middle system*, once so eminently prosperous in Ireland) and for farms of twenty or thirty acres, with a comfortable dwelling house, &c. from two to three guineas per acre. These, however, (if we can depend upon the best information we were able to collect) are *far higher rents* than are paid by any portion of the tenantry of Fermanagh to the lords of the soil for lands held in the farm way; and may therefore be justly regarded as an *exception* to the general practice of the county, the leading estates of Lord Belmore, Lord Enniskillen, General Archdale, and Sir Henry Brooke, not being let out at more than from a pound to thirty shillings per acre, in the farm way. These being the general rents of a county, chiefly dependent upon its agriculture for support, we hence infer that to a people destitute of manufactures, forty shillings per acre must be felt as a grinding rent, in the present low state of the markets; and that hence the Rockfelt tenants, if their history were accurately known, would, in many instances, be found grappling with great difficulties, and forming a striking exception to the enjoyment of that decency and plenty, by which a great majority of the tenants in this county are so happily distinguished. Whether the information that we received upon this subject is correct, we can only infer from the rents just noticed; as we know nothing more of the private circumstances of the people.

These lands are situated, for the most part, in that interesting section of Fermanagh, which opens a communication between Enniskillen and Ballyshannon, in full view of the finest scenery of Lough Erne; and if the beauties of nature could mitigate the severities of the middle system, these

poor people would find a sweet and interſuſe counterpoise to their hardships, in the liberality with which the Author of nature has dispensed his favours to this place.

To these favours, some pretty cottages have been added (at high rents) by the hand of art, among which that of Gabbolusk, the residence of a Mr. Groham, a respectable tenant on this property, is not the least distinguished by its neatness and beauty on that road.

In the same section of the county (but not on this property) there is a cottage freehold, immediately on the roadside, so remarkable for its characteristic coziness (if we may be allowed to introduce a colloquial phrase into print) that we cannot overlook it. The cottage (neatly thatched, and separated from the road by a lawn of perhaps two English acres, inclosed by a low stone wall) stands upon a farm of forty acres, held for ever, subject to a small chief rent, by Mr. William Graham. The neatly cropped garden and fences, and every other feature of this place obvious to view, is so indicative of comfort, and so exactly what the homestead of a yeoman should be, that in passing and re-passing through that section of the county, we several times stopped to take a taste of its cottage comforts; and we recollect to have once drank a glass of very good home made wine there.

These are the kind of habitations that do credit to a county and its landlords; and to the honour of Fermanagh be it said, that they are both numerous and respectable upon all the principal estates.

#### PROSPECT HILL.

This is the seat of Captain Maguire, a magistrate for the counties of Fermanagh and Leitrim; and is appropriately called Prospect-hill, as it stands on a pleasing elevation, which commands a view of the Benaghlin mountain over Florence-court, together with an extensive tract of the plains of Cavan and Fermanagh. It comprehends a comfortable mansion house and forty Irish acres of demesne,



held by this gentleman, from his brother Dr. John Maguire, who is the lord of the soil.

The low lands in this southern section of Fermanagh (as in parts near the centre of the county, already noticed) are soft and spewy; but in the elevated tracts, there is a substratum of lime-stone or lime-stone gravel, which renders them more favourable to the growth and perfection of grain crops, and may therefore be considered as a redeeming quality in that section of the soil.

Captain Maguire's personal property is situated in the county of Leitrim, and embraces a considerable tract of mountain land near Manorhamilton, and a similar one near the town of Ballinamore; but as neither of these tracts have been surveyed by mining engineers, he knows nothing of their subterraneous resources. The prevalence however of divers valuable minerals in other mountain districts in this county, and the well known liberality of nature to Leitrim, in the department of mineral wealth, furnish a reasonable presumption that Captain Maguire's mountains are not without some portion of her hidden treasures.

Prospect-hill stands on a county road, which opens a communication between Swanlinbar and Belturbet, in the county of Cavan, nine miles south of Enniskillen, and one from Swanlinbar, which is the post town to it.

#### SWANLINBAR.

We visited this pretty little village in the county of Cavan, because it is situated on the borders of Fermanagh; in the neighbourhood of what some would term "a fine sporting country," in the region of the mountains. It contains a few respectable habitations, besides a large number of small white-washed houses of lesser note; and among the former of these, the residence of Mr. Montgomery, (a solicitor of Dublin) though a building of plain and unassuming appearance, is so distinguished by the neatness of its internal arrangements, and the peculiarly beautiful order of the garden appended to it, as to render it impossible to select a

more perfect and respectable specimen of the neatness and regularity of the whole hamlet.

No person passing through Swanlinbar, and perceiving the plain and unornamented appearance of Mr. Montgomery's habitation, would suppose the premises to contain a garden of such singular beauty, as stands at the rear of that humble building, modestly retired from public view. The prospect from thence to the surrounding neighbourhood is open and beautiful. The various compartments, with their neatly dressed beds, sanded walks, and wall fruit trees in full bearing, are all in good keeping, with the purity of the air, the openness of the prospect, and the order and harmony of the whole establishment. No confusion prevails in any part. No heavy masses of apple trees (vulgarly distributed through the plots) encumber the beds, or obstruct the prospect. Nothing intercepts the passage of the eye, or the free circulation of sun and air through all the vegetable tribes; and the only description of people that would be likely to find fault with this open and beautiful platform, are lovers wishing to bill and coo in the shades of Arcadia, who would certainly find no heavy groves here to hide their kisses, or conceal the lady's blushes from the piercing and intrusive eye of any Paul Pry, who might happen to steal in, with his umbrella under his arm, upon their sweet enjoyments.

There may be many more splendid and extensive gardens than this in the county of Fermanagh, but we are sure there are few, if any, to exceed it, in the still more essential properties of beauty, order, and convenience; and to the good taste and apparently intelligent mind of Mrs. Montgomery, the Queen of this place, we impute much of that order and perfection, which are so strikingly conspicuous in the whole establishment.

How the people live who inhabit the lesser houses in this village, we cannot exactly say; but we presume a little dealing in the town, with a little spinning and weaving, and the cultivation of a little land in its immediate neigh-

bourhood, constitute their scanty sources of support. We were much pleased with its cleanly appearance; and had we not known that Poverty in Ireland, frequently takes up her abode within *white-washed* walls, we would have inferred from the *appearance* of this place, that it was the theatre of plenty; but of trade, or profitable industry of any kind (with the exception of one respectable public house) we saw no sign in our walks through it.

#### A CIRCUIT DRIVE.

Drove from Enniskillen, through the parishes of Cleenish and Kinawley, to Swanlinbar, the subject of our last description, and back to Enniskillen, a circuit of about 30 English miles.

In this direction there is an extensive mountain tract, affording fine shooting to sportsmen; and in one of these mountains we heard of a fox cover, near the appropriate residence of a clergyman of the name of Fox, who is reputed to be an excellent shot, and has, no doubt, noble sport in this fine mountain country. This reminds us of a dissenting preacher in London or Liverpool, who is said to make £700 a year of his trade, drives his own carriage, and is reputed to be one of the best *whips* in all that part of England! The *game* however, which the pious Fletcher (the English Baxter of the last age) pursued in his vicarage of Madeley in Salop, was of another kind. Which of them was on the better *scent* we shall not presume to say; as the Stoics and Epicureans among the ancients, and the Lough Derg penitents and Protestant bishops, among the moderns, have not yet decided that important question. The begging Friars we have not introduced into this picture, because it is notorious that they live like the sons of Indian kings, when they return laden with corn from Egypt, into the generous fellowship of their own convents.

In this drive we had the pleasure of seeing the beautiful glebe and church of the Rev. Mr. Swiney, a very gentlemanly man, who is said to have a tract of 20 miles long



in his parochial jurisdiction, and of course two or three curates to assist in the performance of the duties of this long union. This gentleman had just returned from France (as we were informed) and looked extremely well indeed after his visit to the continent. His travels however in a foreign country had not caused him to forget that generous hospitality which is the pride of his own, and which he politely tendered to us, in an invitation to spend a night or two with him, while traversing his neighbourhood. We thanked him for this tender of the hospitality of his house, but for *cogent reasons* begged permission to decline it.

The Protestant clergy appear to be a very happy race of men in the north of Ireland, where they enjoy the undisturbed possession of their fine livings. The religious climate of the southern or western country, however, is better suited to the taste of Mr. Tom Maguire, the Catholic controversialist, whose face shows him to be a jolly fellow, a pleasant pot companion, and as good a sportsman as Sir Harcourt Lees, or the Protestant Fox, just noticed. We do not blame these gentlemen for taking care of No. 1, while they are preaching hell and patience to the people. There is nothing more natural. And indeed if sense is to be our guide, the good things of this life which the clergy so amply enjoy, and of which they are said to be proverbially fond, are vastly preferable to the hermit's hair cloth, the monk's mendicancy, or the sour salad of the sober sectarian. No doubt the clergy are of this opinion, or they would not stick so close to them.

#### TITHE COMPOSITION LAW.

While in this county, we made inquiry, in a certain parish (as in various other parishes in the course of our researches) whether the tithe composition law was in force there. In answer to this inquiry, we were informed, that the parishioners had offered the rector £500 per annum, as a composition for his tithes; to which he agreed, but afterwards recanted; asserting that the college of Dublin, in whose

gift the parish is, would not consent to take *so small an income!* equivalent nevertheless (and let this be well noted by the public) to *more* than £800 per annum during the late war, when the products of the loom, and of the land, were nearly, if not fully, 100 per cent. higher than they are at present. Here then is a corporation of *princely* schoolmasters, (for as to the princely *enormity* of 200,000 acres of land to such men; and nearly 14,000 to endowed schools, where education is also highly paid for by each pupil, *that* speaks sufficiently for itself. As to men thus munificently provided for in a period of unparalleled depression, having) resolved, in the exercise of their princely despotism, to grind down the industrious interests of this country by enormous demands; and that too notwithstanding that in addition to the German principalities, which a heavily encumbered state so foolishly permits those schoolmasters to enjoy, they are well and richly paid by every student of property, for every inch they travel with him through the sciences they teach, and for every stroke of the literary hammer with which they batter Horace and Homer into his brains.—Here then is a corporation (if the report conveyed to us be true, and we believe it is) dead to the calls of justice, in an oppressed country from which they derive an income, far exceeding that which is derived by many royal princes, from their subjects, in divers European states! And for what, or for why, may we ask, without treason, are the lands of this country thus sacrificed to the cupidity of schoolmasters, who are so well paid by their pupils for the languages and sciences which they teach? Is it because Queen Elizabeth, to her honour, chose to secure *a small living* to the predecessors of these masters, by giving them lands in Ireland that were then worth TWO or THREE PENCE per acre, and which now, in many instances, are worth TWO POUNDS! that this impoverished country shall continue to be made the victim of enormous monopolies upon the one hand, and of enormous beggary and bankruptcy upon the other? Is it thus that millions of industrious citizens and their families shall be

forced to perish, in order to glut a handful of priests and schoolmasters with the plunder of a nation?! This is a curious policy at a time when common sense has begun to awake from a lethargy of ages, and to lay her finger of reform upon the masses of political putrescence that had been permitted by ignorant and corrupt governments to rise mountain high in Ireland, until they stank in the nostrils of all honest and enlightened men and nations, who had worked the purification of their own states. This system will not do—or if it be good, let it be acted upon still more perfectly.—Let one farmer-general be sent forth with AN UNLIMITED COMMISSION to carry off the fruits of ALL THE LANDS IN IRELAND, and ALL THE MOVEABLE PROPERTY that he can find there; and having shipped the whole of this to one appointed granary, let the population of Ireland (and be it remembered that this is *no* fictitious picture, but A FACT OF PUBLIC NOTORIETY in relation to *many*.) Let the people, we say, when the stock has been thus effectually cleared off, creep out of their empty houses, like the pigs that had preceded them; and on such roots and other garbage as the pigs had left behind, and which the farmer-general could not spare time to burn and destroy, feed with contentment and humility, until the period of their punishment expire; and the time, in the order of Divine Providence arrive, when they shall be once more restored, like Nebuchadnezzar, from the state of quadrupeds, (to which the policy of man has degraded them) to the rank of citizens, to which the Almighty, by his own just and special policy, will soon raise them, far above the grasp of tyrants in the shape of men.

To the point of degradation just noticed, or to one verging very closely upon it, millions of human beings have been driven in Ireland by the existing system!—nor was there any violent straining of the operations of that system in the figure of the farmer-general, which was obviously nothing more than ITS TRUE AND GENUINE PRINCIPLE CONDUCTED TO THE END. And are these divines and school-



masters, the WORTHIES that have gone about to convert the Irish pigs, the papists, from the error of their ways? Good Heavens! how natural is it for us reformers to see the mote that is in our brother's eye, and to forget the beam that is in our own—to strain at the gnat of our brother's faith, while we place the camel of his resources very quietly in our pockets! Oh yes, this has been the course of Irish converters and conservators; but what has been the result? We know it—Heaven blasted their polluted labours, and it will blast them to the end—for if the lawn and the mitre, or the cross and the crozier, be “the outward and visible signs of the inward and spiritual grace” of the Christian priesthood, the opulent clergy must prove this to the people BY SOME GREAT AND NOBLE EXAMPLES OF PUBLIC JUSTICE; or otherwise, they who are looked up to by the people as learned men, will cause Christianity to be doubted; since if they truly believed it to be divine, they would not sell it to the enemy for so many pieces of silver; or sacrifice all its just and generous injunctions to an inordinate lust of gain. Whether this practical impiety of the clergy has contributed more largely to the spread of infidelity throughout Europe, than all the infidel writings in the world put together, we leave these gentlemen to judge.—But of this we are certain, that when their cupidity has developed the full measure of its fruits in the public mind (and it is now making rapid progress) the plank of plunder to which they have so obstinately adhered, will be torn from under them, and sink for ever.

LOUGH ERNE FLOODS—DESTRUCTION OF CROPS.—EN-  
DEMIC DISEASES.—CHOLERA.

In all wet seasons, it is said that the crops on the banks of Lough Erne, a tract of many thousand acres (Dr. Beatty of Enniskillen says 20,000) are much damaged, and sometimes wholly swept away by floods! If this be a fact of public notoriety, one cannot but feel surprised that the remedy for such a serious evil had not been long since

adopted by the landed interest of the county. Captain Galbraith of the same town, who has only twelve acres thus situated, informed us, on the authority of an eminent engineer, that a sum of £3,000 would open such an outlet for the surplus water, as would keep the Lough at the summer level in the wettest season; that towards this fund he offered a subscription of £100 for the benefit of his little plot, but that he could not get a member of the landed interest to join him; and consequently that this essential improvement was abandoned!

Previous to our departure from this county, a meeting of the nobility and gentry was about to take place, in which an improvement in the navigation of Lough Erne was to be seriously considered. Whether measures were adopted by that meeting for so useful a purpose, we cannot say, as at the time of holding it we were in the County of Donegal; but as an opinion generally prevailed, that Lord Enniskillen and other great proprietors of Fermanagh, were turning their attention seriously to the subject, we think it right to notice this communication concerning a public evil which may be so easily removed; and we should not be surprised if the landed and mercantile interests of Donegal would join in the expense, as they have an obvious interest in the waters of Lough Erne.

In addition to the crops that are lost and damaged by the floods, there is also another evil reported to result from these floods, that is of serious consequence to the country. When they have begun to sink in the spring season, leaving heavy masses of putrid mud behind them, it is asserted that endemic diseases become prevalent in the region of the Lough, and spread their baneful influence through an extensive district. If this also be true, ought it not to induce the gentlemen of the country to remove the cause of such an evil, at a time when so many nations of Europe have been visited with an awful epidemic, to which the putrid air of this Lough in the spring season must be a strong predisposing cause?

## QUERIES,

Concerning the expense of Leases to Tenants, the Tithe Composition Law, &c.

Before our final departure from Fermanagh, we requested a freeholder of the county to favour us with written answers to certain queries, among which were the two following. The first query proposed for consideration in the original list (if we recollect right) related to the law charges usually made to the tenants in Fermanagh for the execution of their leases, and was rendered necessary by the shameful impositions practised upon tenants, on divers properties in divers counties, by those jobbing agents, into whose *merciless* hands they had been thrown by their own *honest landlords*! We suppress the answer to this query, in consequence of a *striking discrepancy* appearing between the freeholder's *written* report, and his previous *verbal* assertions; but we do not on this account consider it to be a subject the less deserving of notice in a history of Irish abuses (if such could be arrived at) as we have been told of great and unreasonable impositions having been practised upon many of the tenantry of Ireland in this lease-conveying department. If we had the honour of knowing the names of those landlords (if indeed there are any such) who have seen and placed a check upon the growth of this evil in Ireland (it is a species of *abused patronage*) we should feel great pleasure in publishing their just and conscientious conduct to the world, as an object of imitation to other landlords.—But as this is a duty (and the knowledge connected with it,) more immediately within the range of the provincial press of that country, to the virtuous and public spirited members of that press we refer it.

## QUERIES.

Q. Have the landlords of your *neighbourhood* promoted or retarded the salutary purposes of the tithe composition law?

A. "Landlords in my neighbourhood have used the most strenuous exertions to defeat the beneficial purposes of the tithe commutation law. At a vestry, held in the parish in



which I reside, for the purpose of carrying it into effect, a landlord attended to vote against the measure, claiming a right as a £50 freeholder (not being otherwise entitled) though possessed of a large demesne, tithe free, and whose tenants were the first in calling for the vestry. At the same vestry a £50 freeholder, not in possession of an inch of ground in the parish, (whose *miserable* tenants pay as much in one year at present as perhaps they would pay in five if the measure were brought into effect) also attended and voted against the measure."

Q. What schools have you for the education of the poor; how are they attended, how are the masters qualified, and what amount of compensation do they receive for their services?

A. "The only school worth notice is one near Lisnarrick, established by the Kildare-street Society; the teacher has undergone the usual examination, as to qualification, at the Society's house in Dublin; he is a Roman Catholic, he has about fifty pupils, from each of whom he receives 1s. 6d. for reading and writing, and if farther advanced 2s. per quarter beside £6 per year from the Society. There are two or three other schools in the parish with which I am unacquainted."

REMARK.

What a wretched compensation is the above for a person properly qualified to perform the arduous duties of a moral and literary teacher of fifty pupils! Something more (and not much) than £20 a-year without bed or board!!

## CHAPTER VII.

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### COUNTY OF DONEGAL.

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#### BOUNDARIES.

THIS county is bounded on the east by Tyrone, Derry, and the waters of Lough Foyle; on the north and west by the Atlantic ocean; and on the south by Fermanagh and the bay of Donegal, sometimes denominated the bay of Ballyshannon, as this town is situated on the shore of that bay, and is the principal port of trade in this large county.

#### EXTENT.

From the northern to the southern extremity of the county, it is supposed to embrace a tract of about seventy miles in length; while the breadth (from its remarkable inequality) varies from fourteen or fifteen to thirty or forty British miles.

#### CLIMATE.

The climate is more cold and humid than that of the southern districts of the same province; nor is this surprising, considering that in addition to its northern latitude, it stands more open to the westerly rains and north west winds blowing with violence from the Atlantic, than any other county in the north of Ireland; and in addition to these causes, it may also be observed, that it is, in a large proportion, a wild mountainous country, with but little wood, or even good white thorn fences, to protect its habitations and homesteads from the fury of the tempest, and the heavy vapours of the western ocean.

## SOIL.

A certain proportion of the soil of Donegal is poor and rocky ; and many extensive mountain tracts, in their present rude and uncultivated state, are comparatively unproductive to their owners. Between these mountains, however, there are many rich and fertile valleys, particularly in the baronies of Kilmacrennan and Ennishowen ; but the lands upon the western shore, those in the barony of Raphoe, and a certain proportion on the banks of Lough Swilly, embrace, in all probability, the most rich and fertile tracts of soil in the whole county. Those which are attached to gentlemens seats, are in many instances, richly planted and improved ; but these form indeed a very minor proportion of the soil of Donegal.

## COMMERCIAL RESOURCES.

This county presents to the farmer and commercial speculator, many deserving objects of attention. It contains lime stone, the best of all minerals for the farmer, and indispensable also to the manufacturers of certain metals. It has various veins of lead, stone marle, large tracts of brick and pottery clays, and slate quarries, in a state of nature. Within one mile of Lough Swilly, there are strong indications of coal. On the lands of Sir Edmund Hayes, (where much talk has taken place about forming a Protestant colony) there are said to exist beds of limestone, limestone gravel, marles, and manganese. On those of Mr. Hamilton, of St. Ernans, (where large sums of money have been expended on the lands) there is said to be manganese also. North of the town of Ballyshannon, there are yellow pyrites. Lead ore is to be seen on the mountain of Portnocken, and near Portnew, in Boylagh. Iron ore is reported to have been found in different parts of Muckish ; lead ore on the sea shore at Ards ; and silicious sand on the Murkish mountains, within a few miles of the safe and deep harbours of Sheephaven and Dunfanaghy. This sand has been proved to be of such



superior quality for the manufacture of glass, that it has been purchased in large quantities for the Belfast glass house. In the islands of Wye and Arranmore, there are said to be large quantities of manganese; and iron ore in the latter. There is rich lead at Multenboyle, in Glantice. At Noren, Drumnacross, and on the middle mountain, lead also. Iron ore appears in the broken face of the mountain at Croy, in Boyleagh, and in the bay of Inver, in a precipice over the sea. In the parish of Tolobegly, large lumps of Iron ore were raised by the country people; and as coal is supposed to exist in the neighbouring mountains, it is to be hoped this discovery may yet prove useful. In the island of Torrey there is a species of clay, which the country people manufacture into pots for boiling their potatoes, &c.; and in various places not noticed, there are tracts of marle, limestone, and soap rock, &c. Such farther information of minerals and fossils applicable to trade, as we received in our visitation of particular places, shall be noticed in our brief description of those places as we proceed.

#### KILDRUM LEAD MINES.

These mines are carrying on under the direction of the mining company of Ireland; and by the best information we could procure at Letterkenny, were proceeding very successfully up to the Autumn of 1830, when we visited this county. They are situated on the coast of Donegal, within a few miles of the Atlantic ocean, and twenty-five from Letterkenny, which is the nearest market town. The ore (of which a few specimens were produced to us) is considered by some intelligent people in that neighbourhood to be of superior quality; and as the intercourse which these individuals maintain with the conductors of the mines (who are the best judges) must render them familiar with the distinctions of the metal, the opinion and report of such people (even although they are not professional miners) are entitled to some credit.

Of the profits of the establishment we can say nothing;

but as we understand these mines have been working for a course of years, and employ from 200 to 250 constant hands, the *materiel* must be *valuable*, both in quantity and quality, to justify the *permanent* continuance of such an establishment.

#### SULPHUREATE SPRINGS AND INDICATIONS OF IRON AND OTHER MINERALS.

Dr. Swan, of Donegal, informed us, that the springs here adverted to, have been analyzed by an eminent chemist, namely, Mr. Farady, M.R.S. of London: that the water resembles that of Harrowgate, and is decidedly useful in scrofula and all cutaneous complaints. The iron-stone and other indications of iron, such as chalybeate springs and strong chalybeate streams, flowing from the neighbourhood of Mount Charles, on the Marquis of Conyngham's estate, he asserts have been examined by Sir Charles Lewis Giescky, Professor of Mineralogy to the Dublin Society, and by an eminent mineralogist from Scotland. The Doctor adds, that indisputable evidences of coal and lead are to be found on Mr. Young's property near Lough Eask, and that he himself has collected some very fine amethysts on the lands of Mr. Brooke, in the same neighbourhood.

#### BUNDORAN AND THE MINE IN ITS VICINITY.

During the time that Ballyshannon was our head-quarters, we drove to Bundoran, a bathing hamlet of some note on the eastern shore of the Bay of Donegal, about three miles distant from that town. It is a place that we understand is much resorted to in the bathing season, by the gentry of the neighbouring counties, the waters being reputed strong, and the neighbourhood well accommodated with houses and cottages for the reception of strangers. There is also a good shop, and an apparently comfortable Inn maintained here, by a Mr. James Kerrigan, a wine and spirit merchant of that place; besides warm and cold baths, fresh and salt, for those invalids who prefer a dip in the village near their

warm beds, to a plunge in the ocean, and a walk or a ride, in the open air at an early hour in the morning.

The country adjacent [to this village is said to be distinguished by strong indications of coal and lead, in confirmation of which, we annex to this brief notice of our visit, a report of Mr. John Hamilton, an ingenious inhabitant of Ballyshannon, that we believe to be authentic, and deserving the attention of the commercial interest.

Bundoran, together with Ballyshannon (its neighbouring post-town) are situated, we believe, on college lands in the possession of Colonel Connolly, whose name we have heard mentioned as that of a liberal landlord, and whose obvious interest it is to give due encouragement to the embarkation of capital in this place. Consequently we infer that any individual or company wishing to settle here in trade, would receive every possible measure of support from the gentleman just noticed.

It may not be amiss to mention, that in the opinion of men of science who have inspected this coast, many thousands of acres of land might be reclaimed from the sea between Ballyshannon and Donegal; and in reference to the value of such land, it is scarcely necessary to observe that these alluvial soils are the best in the whole island.

The following is the report which we received concerning the mine just noticed. "About the 20th of March, 1830, a quarter of a mile distant from the sea and from the village of Bundoran, strong indications of a very promising description of coal were discovered by Serjeant Davidson, of his Majesty's Royal Sappers and Miners, then on the survey of Ireland at that place. From his long course of experience, as a professional miner, in the search of coal in different parts of Scotland and England, there is every reason to rely on *his* report. From the principal mine, which he describes as being at forty feet from the surface, in beds of considerable thickness, much may be expected. The local circumstances of the place afford the prospect of many advantages in the working of such a mine. First, all the



necessary machinery could be driven by water power; the coals also conveyed from the mouth of the pit by boats down the river, quarter of a mile only to the sea for shipment. It is also most conveniently circumstanced for the supply of the different markets on the western coast of Ireland, and equally so, for that of the whole country in the region of Lough Erne, as it is but five miles distant from this fine sheet of water; and thus very strong inducements to the embarkation of capital in this branch of trade, are here presented to the commercial interest by this apparently fruitful mine."

"The property in which it is situated belongs to Trinity College, Dublin, and is held by Colonel Connolly."

#### WATERS.

The principal waters of Donegal are those of Loughs Foyle and Swilly, as being applicable to the more extended purposes of foreign commerce, (but although denominated Loughs or Lakes, they are inlets of the sea, to which the rivers Foyle and Swilly give their tributary names)—Lough Derg, (a place famous in Ireland for the penitential pilgrimages of the peasantry to that place) and Lough Eask (a fine sheet of water) are next to these, for beauty and extent; and the river Finn, and that of Foyle, which latter *verges* on the county, are the most respectable rivers of the district.

#### FARMS.

In the rich and level soils, these are supposed to extend from 10 to 50 acres. In the mountain districts from 50 to 500 (including, in some instances, an *unmeasured* mountain run.) The tenures are various, as in other districts. In the mountain region the fences are generally very bad, (loose dry stone walls, or poor bald clay ditches,) and with the exception of gentlemens seats, the lands are generally unplanted and have a bleak appearance.

The habitations of the farmers (when interiorly inspected) are found, in some instances, to be snug and comfortable;

but, in a much larger number, quite the reverse. The practice of collecting manure and dirty water about their doors, (instead of at THE REAR OF THEIR OFFICES, which would be the proper place, as the manure and water of their stables should have a fall from thence into their dung pit; and open sewers under the back stable walls or doors should be made for that purpose;—and to see these improvements executed would be the proper business of an agent of health and morals, which every Irish landlord of rank should employ and pay; and should also choose a man of good sense and great humanity, for the discharge of the duties of such an office; as a person destitute of these essential qualifications would do evil instead of good.) This practice, we say, is nearly as common here, as in the worst districts of Leinster, Munster, or Connaught; but you never see this unclean and unwholesome custom adopted by decent farmers and manufacturers in Antrim, Downshire, or Armagh, where the sense of decency and the tone of moral feeling, have been raised to a standard of very high respectability, by a happy coincidence of favourable events.

#### PEASANTRY.

The peasantry of this county, so far as we had opportunity of observing, are generally peaceable in their conduct, and disposed to improve their circumstances by industry, if they did but possess the means; but the comparative absence of manufactures, the want of capital and knowledge to improve their condition, and the wretched hovels in which many of them live (and in which, in some instances, whatever cattle they have, herd in the same hovel with the family) altogether promise a very slow advancement in knowledge and in the arts of civilized life, until vigorous efforts shall be made by the landed interest of the county to improve their condition.

That person and property, however, are generally secure in this county, must be a great source of comfort to the respectable inhabitants; and under favourable circumstances, will prove a strong inducement to the embarkation of capital upon the soil; nor, with the exception of the affrays that

sometimes attend illicit distillation (a custom we believe that under the operation of a wise policy will totally decline) did we hear of any of those fights or factions, that, in so many other districts of Ireland, are so injurious to the peace, and so deeply disgraceful to the country.

#### CAPABILITIES OF IMPROVEMENT.

That embryo powers of production are enveloped in the poorest and wildest tracts of uncultivated soil, which this and many other counties on the coast of Ireland exhibit—that treatment suited to those soils is alone wanted to call forth those powers into profitable results; and that the produce (for a certain series of years) of *one half* of any given tract that has been effectually reclaimed (and portions of some fine demesnes in this county are said to have been reclaimed from barren heath) will repay with interest the improver's outlay upon *the whole*, is a proposition now confidently put forward by certain agriculturists of experience; and which, from the deep stake that the landed interest of those counties have in the truth of the proposition, that ought to be searched by the light of some well known experiments, even to the bottom.

If this doctrine be true, it holds forth a powerful inducement to colonization companies, and to agriculturists of capital, to take long leases of these mountain tracts. And even if no such speculators should present themselves, it ought to act as a powerful stimulus to the lords of the soil to appropriate some proportion of their dormant capital to the regeneration of their waste lands, seeing that, in a course of years (if this calculation be correct) the lands which they had effectually reclaimed, would pay them 100 per cent. for the money thus profitably applied to the improvement of their properties.

In an investigation of the truth or falsehood of this proposition, gentlemen wishing to take lands in Donegal, might be materially assisted by Mr. Hamilton, of St. Ernans, (who has expended a good deal of money in this way) also Mr.



Stewart, of Ards, Sir James Stewart, of Fort Stewart, and divers other gentlemen in Donegal, who are said to have expended large sums of money in reclaiming portions of their own estates ; that is, if these gentlemen and their predecessors, have indeed kept a regular debtor and creditor account between the land and the cash embarked in this system of improvement, from the beginning to the end ; as otherwise it would be totally impossible for them to furnish a solution to a question, which requires fifteen or twenty years experience to establish its results.

#### INTRODUCTION TO THE LOCAL DESCRIPTIONS.

In the progress of our partial review of this county, we penetrated it from three different positions. First, from the city of Londonderry ; secondly, from Strabane, in the county of Tyrone ; and thirdly, from Enniskillen, the capital of Fermanagh. From this latter town we arrived at Ballyshannon, and here we shall commence our local descriptions of the county ; but previous to our entering upon an examination of this port (as a place of very great importance to the trade of Donegal, Fermanagh, and other counties in the region of Lough Erne) we beg to offer a few general observations upon the obvious aspect of this great peninsular (or semi-peninsular) district, of which about two thirds are surrounded by water.

Donegal, in a portrait of the north of Ireland, stands distinguished from the other counties of that province by features peculiar to itself. It is the largest county in this provincial district. It is perhaps the most mountainous. In proportion to its surface it is the most destitute of wood (although parts of the south and south west of Cavan, are as horribly bleak and ugly—whose estates are they ?—as any eye *desiring to do penance* could possibly enjoy.) It is the wildest in its aspect, *taken as a whole*. In reference to its population, (if we except the whisky makers and the guagers,) it is perhaps the most civil and submissive ; and more IRISH in its language, dress, and manners, than any

county on the Ulster coast. Two thirds of its outline being surrounded by the sea, the inhabitants are distinguished by that honest simplicity of manners, for which the people of the coast and of a mountainous country are much more remarkable, than the generality of those who inhabit the rich and populous plains of the interior. Indeed so eminently distinguished are the peasantry of this county for quiet simplicity of manners, that many respectable families residing near the coast, have declared, that even in the winter season it was a matter of indifference to them, whether they retired to rest with their doors locked and bolted, or without any other protection than that of Heaven and a closed door to keep out the night air! We have heard the same character of the peasantry on the coast of Wexford, and we believe it; for their good conduct and cleanly appearance in the markets of the town of Wexford; and the decency and good order of their little cottages and farms, in the baronies of Forth and Bargie, were sufficient vouchers for the truth of this report. In other districts of the coast of Ireland, where land is cheap, fish plenty, and sea weed for manure very easily procured, we believe the case is not very dissimilar. Hence we infer that the disorders by which Ireland has been so long and so deeply disgraced, have their origin in causes, totally distinct and separate from the *natural* character of the people. To repeat these causes here, after having dwelt so largely upon them; and upon the rational methods of removing them, in the introduction to this work, would be a needless trespass upon the reader and ourselves. We proceed therefore, without farther preface, to a brief description of the town of

## BALLYSHANNON.

Ballyshannon is the principal sea port town on the coast of Donegal; and from the open communication which it would command, were the difficulties of its bar once effectually surmounted, with the markets of the western world, through the Atlantic ocean; and with a large tract of coun-

try in the region of Lough Erne (were the impediments to the navigation of that Lough removed also) it hence becomes our duty to give this town precedence of all others, in a brief review of that county, of whose commerce it is the key, apparently intended by Nature to unlock the treasures of this district to England and the western world, and the treasures of England and that world to it.

In this brief review, therefore, we shall first observe, that although the imports and exports of Ballyshannon (in the present state of its bar and of Lough Erne) are by no means equal to those of Derry; yet from the large tract of country whose commerce it would command, were the obstacles to its free communication with that tract and with the ocean, once effectually removed; we infer that the period is not far distant, when it will outstrip the town of Derry in the march of trade, as it is the natural key of commerce to the larger proportion of Donegal, to the whole of Fermanagh, the north of Cavan, part of Monaghan, part of Leitrim, and a large proportion of Tyrone; and therefore has a peculiar claim to the attention of all these counties; but more particularly to the landed interest of the two which stand foremost in this important list; and we may also add, to that of such English speculators as wish to find cheap lands for improvement, and a noble theatre for trade, without exposing their persons and fortunes to the risk of a long voyage to countries beyond the line, whose inhabitants are barbarous and bloody to unknown intruders, whose difficulties in settlement must be numerous and great, and whose civilized colonists must have much to contend with, before the future generations of their children can be established in the enjoyment of a profitable and peaceful commerce in these distant lands.—In an attempt to communicate to the understandings of such as these, a rude conception of the capabilities of this port, and of the sources from whence its commerce should be drawn, we shall direct our attention more particularly to two points—namely, the tract of country likely to form a theatre for the consumption of its



imports (when in the exercise of an unfettered trade) and the obstacles which Nature, in connection with great advantages of water carriage, has presented to its commerce, in the circumstances of its bar, in the few rocks which intercept the navigation of Lough Erne, and in the absence of a canal or rail road to connect the ocean with that Lough.—Nature, in her admirable economy, appears to have permitted these obstacles to the trade of Ballyshannon and Enniskillen to exist, as a stimulus to the industry and enterprise of the surrounding country, whose opulent inhabitants, by a simultaneous exertion of their means, could easily subdue them; and the rapidly increasing wealth of whose descendants, both of the landed and commercial interest, would be the certain result.—Enniskillen, we believe, as it is now circumstanced, derives the principal part of its foreign productions, through merchants carrying on business in the ports of Dublin and Derry. Some individuals may import their goods direct from England; but, in comparison of these, the number of traders who have not this advantage, is vastly greater; but were the navigation of Lough Erne perfected, and Ballyshannon raised to the rank of a great mart of commerce (of which it is quite capable) this inequality (between the circumstances of one, or perhaps two opulent traders, and the rest) would be quickly removed. Every man of small capital in the towns approximating with Lough Erne, would then be able to procure his goods upon the best terms and subject to the least expense; the consumer of foreign produce, living on the spot, would profit by this advantage; the English market (and consequently the English prices for his surplus produce) would be open to the Irish farmer, through his corn merchant residing on the spot; and the trade and growing wealth of the district (in which divers *intervening* interests now too largely participate) would be concentrated within itself. As capital increased, manufactures would grow up with commerce. Factories would be established upon the banks of Lough Erne, and elsewhere in the immediate neighbourhoods of

Enniskillen and Ballyshannon (as in that of Belfast) both by natives and strangers. The working classes (between these improvements and the rapid regeneration of waste lands, which would now become increasingly valuable) would be well employed, and well paid for their labour. Agricultural produce would always approach very nearly to the English standard of price, in such a commercial and manufacturing district; and in such a district the landlord would never want his rent, and would always have a merchant or a banker on the spot to negotiate his bill. Lands in the vicinity of Enniskillen and Ballyshannon, and for many miles around, would rise rapidly in value; and for these necessary and not very remote effects of the improvements alluded to, we have only to look at Belfast and Liverpool, to see every scintilla of the truths which we here point out, fully exemplified. This however would have been totally *impossible*, if those interested in the prosperity of these latter towns, had not met the difficulties to be surmounted; since no place, however favoured by Nature, is wholly free from some obstacles to the perfection of its trade; and yet that the landed interests of Liverpool and Belfast (or more properly speaking in those regions of Lancashire and Antrim that are interested in the commerce of these towns) have as deep a stake in the prosperity of their trade, as the merchants who reside there (and a much more *imperishable* one) the *superior* value of Lord Donegal's Belfast estate, and of all the lands within six or seven miles of Liverpool, pretty clearly prove; while this exclusive advantage attaches to the landed interest, that while the properties of many merchants may be lost by foreign failures, and by the accidents of a treacherous element, *that* of the proprietors of land, is not only *imperishable* in its nature, but is sure of advancing in its value, in an exact ratio with the aggregate wealth and population, proceeding (as in Liverpool and Belfast) from a steadily increasing commerce.

Having now closed our prefatory remarks (which may be worthy the serious consideration of the landed interest of

Donegal and Fermanagh) let us cast our eye over that tract of country which Nature appears to have designed as a theatre for the consumption of the imports of Ballyshannon, and those of Enniskillen, through that port.

We do not forget that the IMPORTS of a mart of commerce must always be in an exact ratio with the consumption and demand; that is, with the wealth and population of the surrounding country (and to the peculiarly favourable situation of Belfast in this particular, more than half its prosperity may be imputed; for it commands the trade of counties so wealthy and respectable, that a large proportion of its inhabitants can consume a fair proportion of every good thing which the world produces, both foreign and domestic) and hence the import trade of Ballyshannon, even if no impediment to that trade existed in its bar or neighbouring lough, would be in an exact ratio with the wealth and population of that tract of country to which it has been made by Nature the key of commerce.

Let us then take a view of the tract with which it is thus physically connected.

And first, there is the county of Donegal (the largest county in the North of Ireland) of which it is, strictly speaking, the commercial capital. This county is certainly inhabited, in a considerable proportion, by peasants and farmers of the lower class, who, with the exception of tobacco, flax-seed, and a few common dye stuffs, would consume little that is foreign; but then, on the other hand, they would contribute largely to the cultivation of waste lands, and to the produce of corn for the English and Irish markets.

The second class, though not quite so numerous, is nevertheless very considerable both in number and importance, considered as consumers. This is the middle class, composed of the merchants, shop-keepers, rich farmers, and gentlemen of small fortune, and they constitute in every county, as well as in that of Donegal, not only the principal consumers of tea, sugars, timber, and all sorts of foreign pro-



ductions (expensive wines, silks, and trinkets excepted) but also, without offence to the grandees, the pith and marrow of the virtue, industry, and intellect of the country, and the main pillars upon which the commercial temple of the British Empire rests, as upon its own native and substantial pedestals. The third and last class is composed of families of fortune, who reside upon their own estates; and this class (notwithstanding a few absentees who draw every thing from Ireland, and give her nothing in return) very happily for the interests of Donegal, is pretty numerous in this county. Taking then the whole population of Donegal at 250 or 260,000 souls, the consumption of foreign produce must be very considerable, even in this county. The next that comes under review, as an appendage to the trade of Ballyshannon, is that of Fermanagh; a small county, it is true, but possessing in proportion to its size, a more generally wealthy and respectable population than that of Donegal; and, consequently, making up in some degree for its paucity of number, by its weight of wealth; and to the honour of this county also, *most* of its great proprietors (if we may judge from what we saw) live and spend their fortunes on their own native soil, in the bosoms of their people, where every father of a family ought to live, (and, to make a momentary digression, he is not indeed the father of his people, but a foreign tax-gatherer, who lives in a distant country, and pays no attention to the moral and social welfare of the people by whom his revenues are raised.) But in addition to the present capability of Fermanagh for consuming imports, the political economist must place his eye upon the vast increase to this capability that would necessarily flow from the trade introduced into that county from distant countries, through the port of Ballyshannon and the waters of Lough Erne; to say nothing of the wealth which the factories likely to be established upon the shores of that lough would pour into the lap of all the industrious interests. The next counties that appear to be naturally connected with this port and Lough, are those of Tyrone and Cavan,

which at present receive the whole or principal part of their foreign produce from the ports of Dublin, Newry, Derry, and Belfast (and Fermanagh is comparatively in the same situation) ENCUMBERED WITH INTERMEDIATE PROFITS, and in most instances, with A HEAVY ADDITIONAL EXPENSE OF LAND-CARRIAGE, all of which would be materially diminished by a free and easy communication with the Ocean through Ballyshannon and Lough Erne. That half the trade of Tyrone (a large and populous county) and *that* of the whole of Cavan, would be likely to flow into this port, on a free and easy communication being established between them, through Lough Erne, is a conclusion naturally resulting from the geographical connection of those counties with the waters of that Lough. Next to these, it may be observed, that if a water communication should be opened between the county of Leitrim and Lough Erne, (and which from the intervening lakes would be easy of execution) then Enniskillen and Ballyshannon would be likely to come in for a large proportion of the trade of this county also, although in the absence of such a communication, Sligo is the more convenient port. And lastly, if Ballyshannon and Lough Erne should become famous for their manufactures and commerce, like the port of Belfast, (and their natural facilities for an extensive trade are much greater) in such circumstances it is highly probable that the trade of Monaghan would be transferred from Dublin to Enniskillen, as the land carriage to and from that city is so considerable, while Enniskillen and Lough Erne are comparatively in its own neighbourhood.

We have now cast our eye over that *spacious* tract of country, which, on the event of Ballyshannon and Lough Erne being disencumbered of their obstructions, would become the steady and extensive consumers of their imports; while Enniskillen, on the margin of Lough Erne, would become the magnificent granary of the exports of this extended tract; for on these improvements taking place, Enniskillen would have her import and export merchants,

as well as the town of Ballyshannon, and would be still more eminently a *dépôt* for the supply of the counties just noticed, with all sorts of goods manufactured on the banks of Lough Erne, as being so much more convenient to them than the port of Ballyshannon; and Enniskillen would also become the grand depository, as we have just noticed, for the corn and other provisions of those counties intended for exportation to the English market.

Let us next enter upon a consideration of the impediments to the rising prosperity of Donegal and Fermanagh, that unhappily exist in the bar of Ballyshannon, and in the rocks which intercept a free navigation through the waters of Lough Erne. In proceeding to this section of our subject, it may not be amiss briefly to recapitulate the advantages that would result to this tract of country from a successful exertion of the private and parliamentary interest of the gentlemen of those counties, to have the improvements completed, that would offer a powerful inducement to the capitalists of our own and other countries to embark in trade in the towns of Ballyshannon and Enniskillen, and on the shores of that lough with which they are so closely connected. And first, the facilities for a great home and foreign trade thus created, would communicate an irresistible impulse of industry to all the farmers and provision dealers in the various counties around Lough Erne, to whom an easy communication with the English market would be thus opened. Secondly. These farmers and provision dealers, and the shop-keepers in all the counties to which they belonged, would find it their interest to deal at Enniskillen for manufactured goods, in preference to Dublin, it being so much nearer to their homes, and the sale of their various produce drawing them so frequently to that town; and thus a powerful impulse would be given to the establishment of cotton and other manufactories on the banks of Lough Erne, for the supply of a demand which would be steadily and constantly created by the intercourse thus opened. Thirdly. The benefits thus derived by each class from its commerce with the other,



would cement their affections with their interests, enlarge the sphere of their knowledge, instruct them to avoid all those petty sectarian disputes and distinctions by which the social and commercial relations of a country are weakened, its peace violated, and the virtuous and useful habits of industry and good neighbourhood, interrupted and broken. And avoiding the evils just noticed, and pursuing those things which make for peace, their attachment to civil government and the laws, would advance with the increase of their properties; and hence their characters as citizens and subjects, would be improved by the very same means which improved their fortunes. Thirdly. As the wealth thus created by trade would be diffused through all the channels of society in the surrounding counties, improvements in building, planting, and agriculture, would necessarily follow; waste lands would be reclaimed; and corn (as a valuable export) raised on every soil that could be made capable of producing it. The benefits that would thus flow to THE LANDED INTEREST from the free and unobstructed progress of commerce and manufactures (through Lough Erne and Ballyshannon) between the counties before mentioned, and every part of the known world where a merchantman could find a market, need not be dwelt upon. Suffice it to say, that the rent-roll of these counties (more particularly that of Donegal and Fermanagh upon which the trade of Ballyshannon and Lough Erne would have a powerful effect) would experience a rapid increase; and the *security* of this increase would be guaranteed by the existence of numerous factories, together with the countless villas and other corresponding improvements, to which the residence of wealthy merchants and manufacturers (and farmers participating in the common benefit) would infallibly give birth. Lastly. The men of Enniskillen, Belturbet, and other towns (Ballyshannon herself, though a sea-port, not excepted) who are now obliged to procure English and other goods in a *secondary* way, at the distant ports of Dublin, Derry, or Belfast, would be rendered totally independent of

these ports, by a free and open communication between Lough Erne and the ocean. And that these happy and harmonious effects would result, in a larger or lesser measure, primarily to the whole body of the landed and commercial interests in Donegal and Fermanagh; and secondarily, to all the counties within the region of Lough Erne, must be obvious to every eye and intellect, that have not been unhappily placed within an asses head, and thereby rendered incapable of reasoning upon the *necessity* of an *unfettered* CAUSE producing an EFFECT proportioned to its propelling power, and to the force of its attraction.

That the opening a free and effectual communication between the inland country and the Atlantic Ocean, through Lough Erne and Ballyshannon, would constitute the propelling power of the commerce of that tract of country; and liberal encouragement to capitalists to settle there, the principle of attraction which would unite with that power to render the moving cause perfect, must be evident to common sense; and that this cause cannot be created and maintained working, without producing effects proportioned to the power of its spring, and to the strength of its attraction, may be easily understood, without reference to the schools of Archimedes and Newton, in which the connection existing in Nature between causes and their effects, are demonstrated and established.

Having now briefly recapitulated the benefits that would flow through Ballyshannon and Lough Erne, to the counties approximating with this Lough; and particularly to Fermanagh and Donegal, from a free communication of those counties with the ocean, let us proceed without farther digression to examine the obstacles to this free communication which exist, and the means by which these obstacles may be most effectually surmounted. They are reducible to three principal heads; all of which, at a comparatively moderate expense, might be easily removed by the application of skill and persevering labour—the first is found in the bar of Ballyshannon; the second in the want of a canal or

rail road between that town and Lough Erne, in its immediate neighbourhood; and the last in a few ledges of rocks which present an impediment to the free navigation of this water. In reference to Ballyshannon it may be observed, that the passage of vessels into this port (even in the best circumstances of the channel) is intercepted by large loose rocks or stones inside the bar; and in the summer season (as an augmentation of this evil) the channel being frequently choaked up with sand, unless there happens to be a sufficient fresh in the river to keep the passage to the bar open, it is extremely difficult for vessels to effect a landing at that place. A dreadfully heavy sea runs in here; and in addition to all the other evils of the channel, it is so extremely narrow, that large vessels coming up to Ballyshannon sometimes touch the bank upon either side, and when they come into contact with the fresh and the ebb tide going down the channel, have, in divers instances, been thrown on shore and wrecked. All of these facts (to which the merchants and men of all *remedies* at that place bear testimony) go clearly to prove that no *patchwork plan* for the improvement of that bar will meet the evil; but that in devising a permanent plan for securing the benefits of the ocean to Ballyshannon and the inland country, that bar must be completely cut off, and a communication opened with the Atlantic at a safer point.—In the pursuit of those facts, upon which the present report is grounded, divers of those *patchwork* schemes for the improvement of the bar of Ballyshannon (which have their origin in a mistaken notion of *economy*) were kindly suggested for the government of our report; but the more deeply we entered into a consideration of the impediments which Nature and accident appear to have thrown in the way of that bar, (and in the facts and consequences of which, the various merchants of that port, however differing about the remedy, all heartily agreed) the more fully we became convinced that the only feasible plan for an effectual deliverance of the whole neighbouring country from the evils of that bar (and the collateral evils of



Lough Erne) is one that appears to have been first thrown before the public by Messrs. Hamilton and Magowan, of Ballyshannon; but which we are inclined to believe was derived from that eminent coasting engineer, who planned the Eddystone light house, as Mr. Hamilton (who is a public spirited man) laid a plan of the bar of Ballyshannon and its neighbouring coast before him, and in the conversation and explanations which then took place, it is highly probable, this reasonable and apparently EFFECTUAL REMEDY for the comparative loss of trade inflicted upon all the surrounding counties, by the circumstances of this bar and those of its neighbouring Lough, found its origin.

Regardless, however, of the source from whence the remedy proceeded (although by no means undervaluing the well-balanced opinion of an experienced coasting engineer) and judging of the efficacy of the plan by its own evidence, we have, on a deliberate conviction of its exclusive merit, thrown overboard all the patch-work plans with which we were so kindly accommodated, and in the journey of our country's improvement (Mr. Magowan being a coach owner, and Mr. Hamilton a manufacturer of vehicles of public wealth) have placed ourselves in the manly and sweeping vehicle of Magowan and Hamilton alone, convinced that if this well-built carriage do not bring us to our journey's end, that the result of an experiment in the rickety machines of other manufacturers would be a quick break down.

Concerning the probable expense of carrying these various plans into execution, a variety of opinions have been put forward in Ballyshannon; all, however, floating between the paltry sums of four or five thousand and fifty thousand pounds: but to which, or whether to any of these estimates, implicit credit is due, is not so much the question, as whether the tide of commerce and consequent prosperity shall be prevented from flowing into a large tract of country, in order to save a paltry present expenditure; or whether Parliament and the public shall immediately combine to remove the impediments to that prosperity, at an expense

that may be made to return to those who incur it (and that by a small toll upon trading and other vessels that would scarcely be felt) a more than ample interest for one of the most important applications of public money that has yet been applied to the improvement of any single district in this comparatively neglected land.

Of what importance are five, or fifty, or even an hundred thousand pounds, when placed in competition with the moral and social benefits naturally flowing from the salutary employment of 5 or 600,000 people; to say nothing of the liberal returns which the government itself would derive from the introduction of manufactures and commerce into a large tract of country, where many thousands of persons have no profitable employment, and, consequently, can contribute little or nothing towards the general expenses of the state.

The plan of Hamilton and Magowan is as follows. To open a ship canal that would avoid all the difficulties of the bar of Ballyshannon, by being conducted about two miles across a neck of land, from the small harbour of Bonatroughen (where there is no running sand to impede vessels) to a safe point of the water at a place called the General's boat house; together with a canal or rail road from the said ship canal to the village of Belleek, on the banks of Lough Erne, (a distance of about four Irish miles) but which, in our poor opinion, should be conducted about two miles farther to the deep waters of the Lough beyond Roscorr, where vessels could be easily and safely launched. And for a corresponding improvement in the navigation of Lough Erne, they (or the engineer alluded to if he has been their adviser) recommend the blasting, to a certain necessary extent, of those ledges of rocks which intercept the navigation of the Lough, until an excavation of sufficient depth should be effected to admit a flat steamer, taking three or four feet of water, to pass with light vessels in tow between Belleek and Enniskillen, and other towns on the margin of Lough Erne, (and here we shall observe that if a canal were cut from the contemplated ship

canal to the deep waters at Roscorr, and which would be much better than a rail-road communication between this latter and Lough Erne, the trouble and expense of lading and unlading at Belleek or elsewhere upon the Lough would be effectually saved.) Here is the substance of the plan proposed by these gentlemen (and we deem it to be the most excellent) for opening a free communication between the Atlantic ocean and the richly peopled counties approximating with Lough Erne; and in comparison of the benefits to be produced by it, we regard the expense as **NOTHING**. The harbour of Bonatroughan, being only a boat harbour, would require to be sunk and widened; and two piers, we understand, should be erected to protect vessels entering the port of Ballyshannon from the tempests to which that point of the coast stands so exceedingly exposed; and from the heavy sea which runs in here when the wind blows from the south west, to which the mouth of the bay of Donegal stands directly open.

Now if government could be prevailed on to undertake this work (in connection with the gentlemen of the landed interest in the neighbouring counties) and have it executed by able engineers, by contract, on sufficient securities, as in other government works, then a reasonable expectation might be entertained that the work would be put forward without needless delay; and that under the superintendence of a reformed parliament, the public money would neither be wasted nor embezzled; an abuse that has been often and justly complained of, when parliament for public works (seldom well executed, and sometimes not half executed) have entrusted individuals with the arrangement of large public grants.

The first step in this proceeding would of course be, to employ one or two able coasting engineers, (not inland engineers, who are perhaps no competent judges of such works) to inspect the whole theatre of land and water upon which it was proposed to effect these improvements. This duty (attended with a small expense only) ought, in reason,



to be discharged by the gentlemen of Donegal and Fermanagh, as having the first and the deepest stake in the results of this noble experiment; and on the report of such engineers, their application to Parliament for assistance, would be well and profitably grounded.

Having now briefly noticed the plan of this eminently useful public improvement, we beg permission, *en passant*, to advert to what we conceive to have been an exceedingly injudicious allusion of some writer on this subject in the Erne Packet (a respectable journal published in Enniskillen) to the long talked of Ulster canal; a work that, no doubt, would prove very useful to Belfast, and other parts of the North of Ireland, corresponding, or intended to correspond in trade with that port, (and probably harmless to Donegal and Fermanagh, if the improvements here noticed were previously completed, and the trade and connections consequent thereon, WELL AND FIRMLY ESTABLISHED) but, which, in our humble opinion, should it obtain *precedence* of these improvements, would prove FATAL to the commercial interests of Enniskillen and Ballyshannon, and through that (then perhaps *irretrievable misfortune*) deeply and permanently detrimental to the landed interest of Donegal and Fermanagh; and, in a secondary degree, to that of other counties approximating with Lough Erne.

To this important fact we earnestly call the attention of the landed interest of all these counties; convinced that if the absorbing power of Belfast, as a mart of commerce, shall reach to Fermanagh and Donegal, through a union of this contemplated canal with Lough Erne (to its junction with Lough Neagh there can be no objection) before Enniskillen and Ballyshannon have been placed in possession of their RIGHTS, that it will have a gradually sinking influence upon the landed, as well as the commercial interest in the entire region of Lough Erne, by rivetting the dependence of that region upon the port of Belfast for its various manufactures, and for the whole or principal part of all its foreign merchandize, which, on the event of justice being done to

Enniskillen and Ballyshannon, would be received exclusively from distant nations through these towns. Hence instead of rivetting the dependence of their counties for all sorts of merchandize upon a distant port, by opening a canal to that port from their own doors; the gentlemen of Donegal and Fermanagh should be busily engaged in opening the commerce of the world to their own tenantry, by removing every obstacle which exists to a free communication between Enniskillen and the ocean. Were this free communication once completed, and the towns of Enniskillen and Ballyshannon in the full fruition of the trade of their surrounding counties, then indeed we should have no objection to the Ulster canal paying its compliments to Lough Erne, as it could do no more than produce a wholesome competition between rival ports (in which the nearest port would always have the advantage of the stranger) but to introduce such a canal to Lough Erne, before justice had been done to the towns in trade upon its shores, would not be opening a door to healthful competition between two flourishing ports, but planting a dagger in the bosom of the commercial interests of Donegal and Fermanagh, while that interest was yet in a weak and fainting state; and whether thus to rivet the chains of their dependence upon Belfast, be the interest of the proprietors of the soil of those counties, let their reason judge.

In addition to this argument, which is addressed exclusively to those whose interests are identified with the commercial prosperity of their own counties, there is another of still greater importance to the public at large, as being founded on principles of national justice and the general good, and which we therefore address more particularly to the government of the country; convinced at the same time that the friends of justice, and of the general improvement of Ireland, will feel its force.—It is this—Belfast, and the territory naturally connected with it, are rich; and, in comparison of many other districts, are in the full enjoyment of a good home and foreign trade. Ballyshannon,

and the territory connected with it, as a sea-port, are comparatively poor, very slenderly provided with manufactures, have hitherto struggled with difficulties which they have not been able to surmount; and, in consequence thereof, the interests of a large tract of country (to the *shame* of the landed interest of that tract) are, to this moment, deeply suffering. Here then is an argument in national justice and sound morality, for raising this equally valuable and well-conducted district to an equality of advantages with the other; and consequently for giving its claims *precedence* to those of the Ulster canal, which might be usefully introduced, when the claims of Ballyshannon and Lough Erne had been answered, and the two great districts of the north, thus placed upon a fair and equal footing of honourable competition. To do so however before justice has been done to this part of the north-west district, would, in our opinion, be a corrupt and unjust policy; and as such ought to be firmly resisted by the landed interest of Donegal and Fermanagh, as otherwise we fear the chance of raising these counties to their just level in the scale of commerce, will be bad indeed.

It must be evident to the gentlemen just noticed, that to retain their counties in a state of abject dependence for mercantile accommodation upon the ports of Dublin, Derry, and Belfast, is to inflict a wound upon their own interests, by the benefits of which they and their tenantry shall continue to be deprived, so long as they remain in a state of dependence upon secondary or perhaps third rate sources of supply! They have been already reminded that goods thus procured, in addition to the profits of the different houses through which they pass, are also heavily laden with the costs of carriage and package; from the larger proportion of which they would be effectually protected by A CLOSE HOME TRADE. And as the purchasers of these heavily encumbered goods are chiefly those of the landed interest (from the landlord to his lowest tenant) the owners of the soil, if they reason at all upon the subject, must see that in the



establishment of a great mart of commerce upon their own shores, and in a free and easy communication of the neighbouring country with that mart, they have a direct personal interest, exclusive of the obvious and much more permanent influence of such a trade, upon the future prosperity of their estates; while in opening a free and easy communication with a distant and rapidly ascending emporium of trade (such as Belfast is) before justice has been done to their own counties, they are rivetting the dependence of their people upon that distant port, contributing to the continuance of their own commercial degradation, to a proportionate reduction in the value of their lands, and discouraging those valuable and enterprising traders on their own estates, who, if properly supported, would become the seeds of the future wealth and power of their own counties.

Our advice therefore to the landed interest of Donegal and Fermanagh, is this. Give no portion of your property or parliamentary interest to the Ulster canal, until you have first removed every obstacle to the commercial prosperity of your own towns of Ballyshannon and Enniskillen, and of the whole neighbouring country in the region of Lough Erne, through those incipient marts of trade; since by the discharge of this first duty, you will have converted Ballyshannon into the Glasgow of the North of Ireland, and Enniskillen into its corresponding Greenock; and may then with propriety, but not before it, turn your attention to any other public work that may appear calculated to give efficacy to the operations of your own district, when placed in the possession of all the necessary facilities for an extension of its commerce, and for maintaining a just and honourable competition with other ports.

This is the true view to be taken of this case, as a question of interest and common sense; and although public spirited men are of the utmost value to every rising country, yet none but fools are expected to sacrifice their property to the production of a distant and secondary good, until the more

immediate and pressing claims of their own soil and neighbourhood have been first answered.

No accessible source of information was overlooked by us, in our attention to this great and paramount question. We conversed with Mr. Davis, who for many years was an officer of the port of Ballyshannon; with several of the principal merchants of that port; and with various other intelligent inhabitants, whose knowledge of the coast and Lough, qualified them to shed light upon this vital question.

The result, we trust, has been such, as to place this subject with sufficient clearness before the landed interest of Donegal and Fermanagh, as well as before the eye of the English manufacturer and merchant; and should it prove insufficient to arouse them to a sense of the interest which they have in the commerce of this district, we feel that any farther writing or printing upon the subject would be useless.

The following is a concise account of the goods usually imported and exported, to and from the port of Ballyshannon, at we received it from Mr. Green, a merchant of that town.

*Imports.*—Memel timber; North American, ditto; Norway, ditto; from Liverpool, iron, sugar, coal, rock and white salt, and earthen-ware; from Glasgow, coal and metals.

*Exports.*—Corn only to the ports of Liverpool and Glasgow; passengers occasionally to America.

N.B. There is no butter exported from Ballyshannon; that which is casked here is conveyed by land to Sligo and Londonderry; and the report farther mentions, that even for iron, sugar, metals, and earthenware, Londonderry is the principal market, thus getting these articles at second hand through another port!!

## PRINCIPAL PROPRIETORS OF THE SOIL OF DONEGAL.

From the best information that we could collect upon the spot, the principal proprietors of Donegal are as follows: The Marquis of Conyngham; The Marquis of Donegal; The Marquis of Abercorn; The College of Dublin (under whom Colonel Conolly is an extensive holder;) The See of Raphoe; Alexander Murray, Esq. of Broughton in Scotland; Sir Edmond Hayes, Bart.; Sir Charles Styles, Bart.; Sir James Stewart, Bart.; — Stewart, Esq. of Ards; The Earls of Leitrim and Wicklow; the Hamilton and Brooke properties are probably less extensive. But besides these there may be a few lesser, or even larger estates, of which we know nothing; or which may have been overlooked or forgotten, in the notes of information that now lie before us.

## THE CONYNGHAM ESTATES.

These estates are situated in the baronies of Banagh, Boyleigh and Raphoe, and embrace about 120,000 Irish acres of those soils, two thirds of which are supposed to be composed of bog and mountain. But this latter class of soil (constituting a large proportion of this wild county) is so frequently and deeply enveloped in bog, as, without a regular process of boring, to render extremely difficult, if not totally impossible, any effort of science to collect the indications of minerals applicable to trade, which their surface might otherwise exhibit.

An attempt however (a noble attempt we would call it) to collect the best indications that could be collected of their mineral wealth, was made some years since by the late Lord Conyngham and Mr. Murray, (whose lands approximate) in the person of a mining engineer, (we believe from Scotland) who discovered indisputable indications of lead and copper in that part of the barony of Boyleigh, which unites with other districts to form a boundary to the ocean on the north west coast.—The situation of these lands on the shores of the Atlantic, and the consequent facilities which



they possess for the exportation of manufactured iron, copper, or pottery clay, to the West Indies and the two Americas, where these manufactures are in an infant state, need not be enlarged upon; as the motives which they hold out to commercial research and enterprise are self-evident. It is however well worthy the attention of English capitalists, that a large proportion of the natural wealth of Ireland, applicable to such manufactures, are found in the mountain districts (witness that of Leitrim, so eminently distinguished for its mineral wealth) and not unfrequently (if the reports of travelling miners may be depended on) in those mountain regions which extend themselves in lines nearly parallel with the coast (for proof of which we refer to the discovery recently made at Bundoran, on the coast of this county, to the collieries at Ballycastle on the coast of Antrim, to the silver mines found near the coast of Wicklow; and to many indisputable indications of similar wealth, which have been discovered by men of science in other mountain regions of the Irish coast) and in the county on which we are now writing, and in which various facilities for trade are known to exist, the cheapness of its lands and labour, the abundance of its fish and sea weed, its immediate connection with the western ocean, and the perfect peace and security with which capital to any amount might be embarked here; form a combination of inducements to the introduction of trade, with which no part of England could for a moment maintain a successful competition.

That it would not be difficult to treat with the owners of these mountain districts in the County of Donegal, or even with the farmers who hold under them, for any portion of these lands essential to the accommodation of manufacturing establishments, we infer from the use to which these lands are generally appropriated; namely, *that* of an *unmeasured* run for poor mountain cattle (for in many instances they are *not at all measured*, but thrown in with farms by the lump) and that in addition to the facilities for foreign commerce with which the western ocean provides them, the

numerous lakes in the counties of Donegal, Fermanagh and Leitrim (which at a very moderate expense, might be made to communicate with each other, and with the ocean at divers points) offer equal facilities for the conveyance of goods manufactured in the mountain districts, to all the ports in the home market; to which useful object the river Shannon and the Royal canal in the neighbouring County of Leitrim; and Lough Erne, in the still nearer county of Fermanagh, would enlist their respective services in the attainment of the one great end. And to these commodious mediums of communication with the home and foreign markets, we have already called the reader's attention to the important additional advantages with which this coast presents the English speculator, beyond any thing with which his own more highly improved country could pretend to provide him; namely low priced provisions, cheap manual labour, and the facilities for a great fishing trade, as an auxiliary to the support of more valuable and extensive works; altogether uniting to present to the commercial interest of England, a fine field of enterprise; and one much more likely to repay their outlay of capital, than the climates of Africa, (witness the millions of money that have been lost at Sierra Leone) and the countries beyond the Equator, where such a large proportion of the wealth of England has been already transported, at infinitely greater peril, and perhaps upon less certain speculations of future profit, considering *the perfect safety, and the very small expense of ascertaining with mathematical certainty, the precise nature of the premises* and the prospects, upon which the temple of commerce could be erected upon this part of the Irish coast.

#### THE HALL.

The family seat attached to the Marquis of Conyngham's Donegal estates, goes under the trite appellation of "The Hall." It comprehends a good plain edifice, with about 200 Irish acres of demesne, situated on the northern shore of the bay of Donegal, within a few miles of the town of

that name, and in the immediate vicinity of the village of Mount Charles, from which the Marquis's son, the Earl of Mount Charles (one of the representatives for this county) derives his title.

#### SCENERY.

The surrounding scenery is wild; and from this distinguishing feature of the country, even the sea views are not exempt. Indeed for solitude, and an almost total exclusion from society, no place can be better circumstanced than "The Hall;" but still there are a few fine seats in this part of the country; and fine grousing and hare hunting for those who are disposed to enjoy the amusements of the field.

Donegal (from which the county derives its name) is the post town to this seat.

#### THE MURRAY ESTATE.

The whole of Mr. Murray's soil in this county, has been estimated by a gentleman acquainted with these lands, at 30,000 Irish acres; two thirds thereof being bog and mountain. Its natural history, including certain specimens of copper, &c., is pretty similar to that of Lord Conyngham, the subject of our last description; and there are also divers small lakes and rivers, which might be rendered tributary to purposes of trade; more particularly one deep and rapid stream which falls into the bay of Killibegs (where there is good riding and safe shelter for shipping, an advantage not always to be had upon this coast) and this stream is said to contain a supply of water, and falls of sufficient force, for the movement of machinery in any manufacturing department.

These lands are chiefly situated in the barony of Banagh, which extends from the bridge of Donegal to the village of Ardaragh, a distance of about thirteen Irish miles.

The lakes noticed in this property are said to be pregnant with trout, and the rivers with eel and young salmon; but the mineral wealth of this wild mountain district, if accu-



rately known, would perhaps be found the most valuable feature in its natural history. The larger proportion of this, however, must remain a secret even to the proprietors themselves, unless they cause a geological survey and map of their mountain districts to be executed by men acquainted with this branch of science. To the utility of such a survey (as a useful preliminary to the embarkation of capital in mineral manufactures in this mountain region) we now respectfully recommend the attention of these proprietors, as a debt of justice, equally due to Ireland and to themselves.

#### LOUGH EASK.

Lough Eask (so called from a lake of this name, which forms a beautiful feature in the home view, and is pregnant with the char, a fish which, in England, is supposed to be peculiar to the lakes of Cumberland) is the seat and property of Thomas Brooke, Esq.—It reposes at the foot of the wild rocky mountains of Barnsmore and Glashcairns; and the property, of which it is the seat of government, is said to contain about 10,000 Irish acres, of which *nine tenths* are composed of bog and mountain!

As these latter lofty lands are said to abound with limestone, free stone and granite; they, consequently, compose a sound and wholesome pasture for those inferior descriptions of sheep and young cattle, which are usually met with in wild mountain districts; and should the god of commerce extend the manufactures, buildings, and other improvements, which follow in his train, over the surface of this county, the utility of these valuable fossils to its trade and agriculture, will then be understood.

These lands are distinguished by a valuable lead mine, which was tried and approved of by experienced Scotch miners, in 1798. They also contain slate quarries, amethysts, and an abundance of pearls, in a river which issues from Lough Eask; and besides these (a feature of improvement rather rare in Donegal) they contain 200 acres of wood in one tract!

An inferior kind of coal, called blind coal, is supposed to exist here; and from divers chalybeate springs in the lands of Lough Eask, the existence of iron is inferred.

These lands are situated within three miles of Donegal, which is their post town; and, in reference to their present income, are said to form the less valuable part of Mr. Brooke's interest in this county.

#### THE ABERCORN ESTATE.

This property is reputed to extend about seven miles in length, and from three to five in breadth. It is bounded by the river Foyle, the Earl of Erne's estate, the property of a Mr. Sinclair, the church lands of Raphoe, the glebe of Clonleigh; with other glebes and properties, unknown to us by name.

The principal mountains are those called the Binion and Dowish.

The estate contains (if the report of the land surveyor may be regarded as accurate) 300 acres only of bog or peat unreclaimed! with a quantity of worn out bog ready for cultivation; but how much, the report before us does not say.

The classes of soil are, good, bad, middling, and ordinary, arable and pasture; and, undoubtedly, the land surveyor, from whom we received the classification, is a good judge.

The property contains a tolerably good slate quarry or quarries; but no geological survey of that property having been executed, its mineral wealth is consequently, unknown.

On the river of St. Johnstown there are falls for mills. On some of these falls mills have been erected; on others, none: but besides this river, there are streams proceeding from the Dowish hill or mountain, which have falls also.

The farms on this estate extend from 10 to 150 Irish plantation acres, held immediately from the lord of the soil, on short leases of twenty-one years in all recent tenures! According to our information there are no middlemen on this property; nor is it likely that there are (either for trade or private residence) any very splendid improvements in

building or planting, under this short lease system ; although comfortable farm houses may have been erected, in a confidence resulting from experience, that the lands will not be taxed for these improvements, on a renewal of the tenant's lease ; and some individuals may even have sufficient confidence to expend a little in embellishment under this short lease system ; but considering that self-preservation is the first law of nature, we flatter ourselves the number of these confiding tenants will be *very small* ; and that few splendid establishments in trade or otherwise, will be found under the withering influence of such a system. The usual rents charged upon this property, have been reported to us, as follows. For best arable land, from thirty to forty shillings per Irish acre (the largest acre in the British islands.) For middling from twenty to thirty. Ordinary and bad from twenty to eight, late Irish currency.

According to the report before us, there is no manured land (for potatoes) let by the acre for the current season to the peasantry ; nor land to put their manure upon ; but this we conceive must refer exclusively to the lord of the soil, as we think it could not apply to the practice of farmers, in any part of a country where the peasantry live upon potatoes, which they could not raise in sufficient quantity without conacre land, as the gardens of mere labourers are usually very limited.

The usual wages of labourers on this property, appear to be pretty fair for an agricultural district ; as they generally are in all those parts of the north of Ireland, where a proper sense of humanity, and of practical duty to the labourer and his family, maintains an ascendant. We were about to give Protestant liberality the credit for this virtue, but we suppressed it ; although we cannot forget how rich Catholic farmers and great landed proprietors, treat their labourers, in Munster and Connaught !—The average of a labourer's wages in the agricultural districts of these latter provinces (when he is constantly employed) does not we believe exceed six-pence per day ; or at the most seven pence, including all



benefits ! On this property, we are instructed that it is one shilling per day in summer and ten pence in winter, for constant employment ; and fifteen pence for occasional work in summer ; but whether with or without board, the report before us does not mention.

#### ST. ERNANS.

This is the seat of John Hamilton, Esq. (a gentleman of private fortune, and not the ingenious John Hamilton, spoken of in our description of Ballyshannon.)

It is said to derive the name which it bears from that of its patron saint, the ruins of whose abbey bear testimony to the antiquity of the place.

It stands on a small island of six Irish acres, in the Bay of Donegal ; and is connected with Mr. Hamilton's estate on the main land, by a stone causeway of about one furlong. These lands, upon which the proprietor is said to have expended a very large sum of money, for the double purpose of improving his property and employing his people (for in the discharge of his duty to the poor, this gentleman bears the character of one who *imitates* the BENEVOLENCE of his divine Master) are now in a state of improved cultivation, and well adapted to the growth of corn and green crops.

St. Ernans is situated within two English miles of Donegal, a town that has made a considerable advance in trade within the last few years. Should capital from England reach this town, the lands of St. Ernans, from their advantageous situation on the Bay of Donegal, will be found well calculated for commercial purposes ; and from the humane character of the lord of the soil, it may be well believed, that any measure having a tendency to improve the circumstances of his tenantry and neighbours, would be well received, and warmly supported by him.

In this neighbourhood there are mineral springs, and valuable quarries of lime stone, free stone, and granite. There is also a limited portion of peat for fuel ; but, in the existing circumstances of the country, there does not appear

to be much encouragement to search for coal, or for any other valuable mineral lying deep beneath the surface of the soil.

Brown hall, situated within two miles of the village of Ballintra, in this county, was, we believe, the original seat of the proprietor of St. Ernans, and is still held by a member of his family under the college of Dublin. It is distinguished by a lake and river; on the latter of which there is said to be falls of sufficient force for manufacturing purposes. This river, at a certain point, takes a subterraneous course, and, in connection with the sombre aspect of the demesne, which appears to be tolerably well wooded, a good mansion house and other useful improvements, and certain caves which are said to exist here, constitute it an equally interesting and respectable improvement on the surface of this county.

Donegal is the post town to St. Ernans.

#### DRUMBOE CASTLE.

(With a hint to Irish Colonization Societies.)

The house and demesne of Drumboe castle, the seat of Sir Edmund Hayes, Bart., are handsome and well planted; the approach respectable and suited to the geography of the place; the lawn shady and neatly enclosed; and the river which sweeps by the demesne under a rich plantation, and separates Drumboe castle from the public road, altogether unite to constitute this seat a feature of distinction, suited to the value and extent of that large and respectable property of which it is the seat of government.

This property (according to our information) is held by the Hayes family from the crown, under a grant of Charles I.; and is reputed to contain between 20 and 30,000 acres; of which considerably more than one half are composed of bog and mountain.

The whole of these lands, which embrace two manors, can be held by the proprietor in his own personal possession, tithe free, by virtue of the original grant.

They are bounded on the south, by the estate of Lord Lifford; on the west, by that of Sir Charles Style; on the north, by the property of the Rev. Joseph Pratt, and on the east, by the estate of Robert Montgomery, Esq.

Eight hundred acres of a mountain district (a considerable part composed of improvable land) were to have been rented by the Protestant Colonization Society, from the proprietor of this seat, at the moderate annual rent (if our recollection has not deceived us) of £150. Now as this county is extremely peaceable, and well calculated for such a colony, we hope the society will not, like many of their countrymen, give up their intended work of charity (in which we could not learn that any progress had been made at the period of our visit to Donegal, in 1830.) We hope, we say, that they will not give it up, like many of their countrymen embarked in similar schemes of improvement, when the *fervour* of their *fudge* has cooled; but that having placed their hand upon the plough, they will continue to cultivate the field, until their colony shall be made a precedent for all similar institutions in this divided country. We cannot well avoid remarking in this place, that beginning good works, but not “continuing and ending” them, is a thing very common in this country. We could fill a few pages with the facts, if they were all before us; but in turning towards them, in the confusion of a hurried retrospect, the visions of divers *intended* charities, of sleeping monuments, of broken bridges, of half finished harbours, of canals cut short, of piers sliding down the current, and a thousand other schemes of improvement, for which large sums of public money have been sometimes granted, pass before the mental eye in regular succession; while in the rear of the procession, numerous bodies of men come marching forward in the character of parliamentary *trustee* men, English charity *trustee* men! (oh blessed be the use made of that charity!) Ireland improvement society men, Irish manufacture wearing men, Irish land reclaiming men, Irish reformation men, Irish conservation men, Irish conversion men,



Irish colonization men, Irish navigation men, Irish trade reviving men, Irish peasantry improving men, with divers other groups of Irish experimentalists; all beginning their plans of improvement with great zeal, but seldom ending them to the glory of God and the good of mankind, as they appear to have at first intended.

For the instruction of gentlemen engaged in those kind of good works, which are “begun, continued, and ended,” with *brilliant conceptions*, a useful book might be written in the style of Swift, under the title of “WAKING VISIONS.” Hoping that the Protestant Colonization Society will not need this *mirror*; but that they will accomplish in *fact* what they have adopted in *theory*, we shall, in a hopeful anticipation of this fortunate result, submit the following hints to their consideration, and to that of the founders of all future colonies in Ireland.

Gentlemen,—Do not allow your colonists to split their little farms; that is to divide or subdivide them among their children. Let one son be brought up as the heir or inheritor of the farm, and let the rest be put out to trades, or made to earn their bread as labourers or servants. Let your women be similarly educated. It is no uncommon thing to see female weavers and shoemakers in the north of Ireland, as well as female cooks and kitchen maids. We have even seen a woman assisting her husband to cut timber in a saw pit. Therefore let trades and other departments of useful labour be made the inheritance of those who are not intended to occupy the farms. If you build a town in your colony, make provision for the instruction of the children of your colonists in all useful arts, and maintain a fund for the emigration of your surplus labourers and tradesmen. You will then have no occasion to split your fields and to multiply *cabins* upon your farms; but if through ignorance, indolence, or undue parsimony, you neglect to make provision in due time for the wants of an increasing population, you will finally be compelled to split your fields, to multiply *hovels* upon your farms, to see your colony become a nest

of naked paupers, and all the ends of a city of refuge from the poverty and divisions of your country effectually blasted.

Stranorlar, in the immediate neighbourhood of Drumboe castle, is the post town to it.

#### FORT STEWART.

Fort Stewart, the seat of Sir James Stewart, Bart., stands distinguished among the various seats which beautify the banks of Lough Swilly, in this county, by the open and graceful prospect of that Lough which it commands.

The eye extends over that fine sheet of water, to a rich and well elevated chain of soil on the distant shore, by which a land communication is maintained between Londonderry and Letterkenny; as also between that city and the town of Buncrana, situated in a more northern position than that of Letterkenny, on the eastern shore of the same Lough; and whether we regard this seat in reference to its connection with the calm and sublime scenery of the Lough on whose shore it stands; its silent and secluded position from the din of men; its beautiful situation in a valley surrounded by mountains; or the accommodations for trade and shipping, which the Lough presents to Letterkenny and other little towns upon its banks, and the interest which the eye of benevolence must take in the observation of vessels of commerce passing by Fort Stewart with the wealth of nations to these little rising towns; we are equally bound, by all these living features of its portrait, to give it a place of high distinction among the beauties and improvements of this romantic district of the emerald isle.

The property of which Fort Stewart is the seat of government, contains (according to the information kindly communicated to us by an English gentleman then actively engaged in a scientific survey of this county) about "5,500 acres of arable, well tilled and fertile, and 2,400 acres of bog, scarcely any of which is mountain; and constitutes about one third of the extent of the parish of Tully-Aughnish." "The peasantry on this estate," our correspondent

observes, "are much more wealthy and industrious than in any other part of the barony of Kilmacrennan;" and he imputes their superior wealth and moral respectability to "an almost total absence of illicit distillation." He farther states that "the tenants are mostly Protestant, and employed in the useful occupations of farming and weaving."

"It is right perhaps to remark," (continues our friendly correspondent) "that very much inconvenience must arise to the Protestant inhabitants of this parish, on account of the distance of the church," it being the unusually long space of eight miles from many of their residences! And as the meeting houses in this part of the country are but thinly scattered, we may hence infer that the Protestant places of worship are but badly attended.

He proceeds to observe that some years ago, "Tully Aughnish was divided into two distinct and separate parishes, those of Tully and Aughnish;" and hence the distance to, and the very frequent absence of the people from the service of the church (if such be the fact as we presume it is) may be easily accounted for.

Of the mineral wealth, or any other facts in the history of this property, save those which we have just noticed, we know nothing, having received no farther information.

For trade, however, with America and the sister countries, these lands are obviously well circumstanced, as there is no finer or deeper water than that of Lough Swilly, which is capable of bearing from foreign ports, vessels of the heaviest burthen to the deep waters, and various landing-places, at the very doors of the inhabitants.

A ferry and piers are maintained on the Lough, directly opposite to Fort Stewart house; and by this means the communication with Derry is much shortened, being only nine miles across the water.

Rathmelton (a little sea port town situated on Lough Swilly, and on this property) is the post town to Fort Stewart.



## CASTLE GROVE.

This is the seat of Mrs. Brooke, (relict of the late Thomas Brooke, Esq.) It is situated on the same shore of Lough Swilly as that of Fort Stewart, and enjoys a liberal proportion of its scenographic advantages. The grounds are beautifully circumstanced on the margin of the Lough, and command a noble view of the Faan and the Bert, two charming mountains on the distant shore. Of the extent of these lands or their natural history we could procure no information.

Letterkenny is the post town to Castle Grove, from which it is distant about four Irish miles.

## ROCK HILL.

Rock Hill (situated in the Lough Swilly region of Donegal) is the seat of Daniel Chambers, Esq. It stands on a lofty position in a circle of the neighbouring mountains; and commands an interesting front view of the spire of Letterkenny church, and of one or two finely elevated and richly decorated seats on the distant bank of the river Swilly. The house and lawn, from whence you enjoy the front view just noticed, surmount a demesne of about 130 acres, beautifully planted and improved; and the property to which the *domicile* is attached, is reputed to contain 3000 acres of mountain, arable, and bog.

According to our information, Letterkenny (its post town) is situated on this property; which is also distinguished by the waters of Lake Gartan; a lake deserving of peculiar notice, as it appears to be connected with some of the most useful and valuable features of accommodation and commerce, in the natural history of this estate.

The River Lennan issues from Lake Gartan, and running into the sea at Rarthmelton, turns several mills in its rapid procedure to Lough Swilly. There is a good salmon fishery on this river, and the fish are said to have the peculiar quality of being in good season during the winter.

In the natural history of this neighbourhood it is also

worthy of notice, that some very fine white marble has made its appearance on the shores of Lake Gartan.—Mr. Chambers says this marble was inspected by a statuary and pronounced good. Lead ore of good quality is also known to exist here, as various portions of this ore have been washed down from the mountain of Glendone, by a stream which issues from that mountain; and thus it is that by one instrument or another, Providence brings the treasures of the earth before the view of those intelligent beings for whose benefit they are intended. We wish we could say that its bounty to Ireland had not been frustrated by the jealous and blasting policy of her *professed* sister.

The average rent of good arable land in this district of Donegal, is about one pound per acre; and the usual wages of a labourer for constant employment, ten pence per day; “but,” (observes Mr. Chambers, with great candour) “it must be *sorrowfully* acknowledged, that not one *half* of our labouring population can obtain employment *on any terms*, except in the busy periods of spring and harvest, &c.”

According to our information, the proprietor of this seat has property in the three neighbouring parishes of Leck, Cornwall, (or Conwall) and Gartan; and the tithe composition law was not in force in any one of these, when we collected our information from this neighbourhood, late in the year 1830! With such proofs of the prevalence of unjust and oppressive principles, it is no wonder that the heavy hand of public indignation should be laid upon the tithe system.

Rockhill is situated on a line of road, which opens a communication between Letterkenny and Dunfanaghy (by Churchhill) at the distance of two miles from Letterkenny which is the post town to it.

#### WOODLANDS.

This is an odd name, by the bye, for a place where no wood appears! A few young plantations had been recently put down, in a rough tract of soil in a rude mountain dis-

trict; but these were totally imperceptible to the traveller on the public roads, when we visited that place in 1830.—We give due credit to those gentlemen who are laying the hand of regeneration on their rough mountain tracts, and thus calling order out of chaos; but we do not wish that an Irishman should be liable to the imputation of offending against common sense, by the adoption of a name, which conveys the idea of a forest where not a tree appears.—Instead of Woodlands, Roughlands would have been the proper title of a place, which had scarcely got out of its swaddling clouts when it was dubbed with this pompous title.

It is the seat of James Johnston, Esq., who has built a good house there, and commenced the regeneration of his soil, which embraces 800 acres of this rude country, 120 whereof (attached to the house) have been set apart for the purposes of a demesne; and in the course of another half century or less, when the plantations are full grown and the ground well cultivated, this place will, of course, present to the eye of the spectator, a new aspect.

The uplands, though rude in their appearance, are said to constitute a good corn soil; and the low moory lands have *eminent supplies* of water for irrigation, if such should be wanted in the progress of improvement. A communication also having been kept open between these lands and the river Finn, which is navigable for boats of twenty tons burthen from Castle Finn, (a village within three miles of this seat) a correspondence by water with the port of Derry, has been hence reserved for the farmers on this property, who have now a cheap and easy conveyance for the sale of their produce at the best market in the North-west district.

Stranorlar is the post town to this seat.

#### GLENDOWN GLEBE.

This glebe comprehends an excellent dwelling house for the incumbent, beautifully elevated above the River Swilly (within two English miles of Letterkenny, which is the post



town to it) and thirty acres of glebe land apparently well cultivated and improved. It was the residence of Dr. Stopford, the rector of Conwall, in 1830; but of the value of its revenues, or the extent of its parochial jurisdiction, we know nothing.

#### ROCKVILLE.

Rockville (which we believe has been so denominated from the rocky surface of the surrounding soil) is the name of a pretty little lodge, built by Dr. Crawford of the Donegal regiment (as a retreat from the noise and bustle of Ballyshannon, in whose neighbourhood he has chosen to locate himself) upon a small demesne of about twenty English acres, which he has skilfully cultivated and improved. It stands upon a pleasing elevation above the town and neighbouring waters, of which it commands a copious view; and in the hour of relaxation from professional duty, it constitutes an interesting retreat from the noisy scenes of mendicant exhibitions, to which the towns of Ireland, situated in poor and unemployed districts, are heavily subjected.

As comfort and accommodation are more directly the characteristics of Rockville, than beauty and embellishment, so they constitute it a peculiarly suitable retreat for a physician and philosopher, who smiles at the *short-lived* pageantry of human pomp; whose meditations on *mortality* require solitude; and whose knowledge of the *brevity* of human life (considering the accidents to which it is exposed, and the hands through which it passes) qualify him to say to his patients in the emphatical language of experience, "This world is not your home;" look forward to a better; for of all the truths inscribed upon it, there is none more true than this,

"Man wants but little here below, *nor wants that little long.*"

But it is not to these *grave* and solemn subjects *only* that Rockfield has devoted the operations of its master mind.—Justice and benevolence of the highest order have made that modest residence their throne; as innocence and literary

merit, pursued by the Stygian tongue of slander in a saintly robe, would tell if they could speak; for they found shelter under the protecting wing of that master mind, when cruel and cold-blooded hypocrisy had pursued them, "like a staunch murderer steady to his purpose," through every lane of life, even to the verge of that grave into which the poisoned shaft of malice drops harmless upon the sufferer, who there rests secure from the effects of every judgment, save the judgment which his actions justly claim. Should a Frenchman, in the progress of this world's revolutions, become the proprietor of this nicely decorated lodge, it is not likely he would rest contented, like an Irish doctor, with the rude and rocky origin of its present name. His vast *imagination* would extend much farther—it would embrace that mighty element which sweeps the western world, and pours its tributary waters into the Bay of Donegal.—Standing upon the shores of this bay, with his arms extended towards the ocean, and his eyes raised with the vastness of his imagination over the mighty element; it is in accordance with the character of his nation to suppose, that he would plunge his Rockville in the waters of the bay, and having drawn it forth from this mighty font, and replaced it upon its base, that he would then, with solemn emphasis, thus address the newly regenerated place:—

"Rockville, I have baptized thee in the bay of Donegal, and I now draw thee forth from the waters of purification, and present thee pure and spotless to the world, under the new and more noble title of "ATLANTIC LODGE."

#### BUNCRANA CASTLE, AND THE TOWN OF BUNCRANA.

Buncrana Castle derives its title from the castle of Sir Cahir O'Doherty, which once flourished here, and a wretched remnant of whose ruins is still standing, enveloped in the deep shade of a plantation near the present mansion-house; to which (in the exercise of all due authority) it appears to have transferred the title of a castle.

Thus associated with the venerable recollections of anti-

quity, to which the castellated appearance of the garden walls has been *forced* to contribute; surrounded also by that wild mountain scenery, which maintains such an ascendant in the topography of Donegal; and intimately connected with all the neighbouring beauties of Lough Swilly; the stranger who visits this part of Ireland in pursuit of the romantic of its history, or the resources of its future trade, and who should like to collect such data as would enable him to draw a parallel between the blessings of our present and our ancient state, may visit the curious castle of Sir Cahir among other objects, and from thence go back to that period of our history when the churches of our country were composed of *wicker-work*, with which the little *splendid* ruin just noticed might well correspond.

The lands of Buncrana Castle, which are held in perpetuity from the Marquis of Donegal, by Daniel Todd, Esq. the proprietor of this seat, embrace about 10,000 acres of a fine wild and romantic country. The town or village of Buncrana, about half a mile distant from the castle, is situated on those lands, and next to Lough Swilly (whose facilities for trade may be regarded as paramount) it is the most distinguished *visible* feature in the commercial history of those lands; for their subterraneous treasures, if they have any, are perfectly unknown.

An extensive sail-cloth manufactory (unfortunately consumed by fire) once flourished in this neighbourhood. Its ruins constitute an interesting but melancholy object in the general landscape; and the view from the castle, (as the house is called) to the town of Buncrana, and to a few pretty cottage improvements in the neighbourhood, derives no mean auxiliary influence from the wild, mountainous, and rather thinly inhabited country, that surrounds it.

The town of Buncrana quite exceeded our expectation. It exhibits a good market-house, a church with a handsome spire, several good shops, and respectable habitations; has a post-office, a dispensary, a weekly market, four fairs in the year, and may probably contain a population of about



1,500 persons.—It has also a salmon fishery in its neighbourhood, and a good fishery of soal and plaice; and being situated on the deep waters of Lough Swilly, which open into the ocean, and where ships of war can ride (even those of the heaviest *calibre*) it is obviously well circumstanced for trade; that is, if it had manufactures to employ the people, and a wealthy population around it to consume imports, as these are the sources from whence the wealth of a sea-port town is necessarily drawn.

The lands of Buncrana are said to abound with lime and turf bog, and consequently contain within themselves two very important elements of agricultural improvement; as these, united with head-lands, old ditches, forts, mounts, the scouring of old gripes or stagnant pools, and above all with well pulverised road dirt, constitute an excellent compost, when well turned, and left for a sufficiently long period of time to combine and ferment.

Sea-weed is found in large quantities on the shores of Lough Swilly. It is brought to the land in boats, and sold to the farmers for manure at low prices. When mixed with other ingredients, and left to ferment, it may perhaps contribute largely to the composition of a strong and permanent manure; but, separate from these, we have always heard it spoken of as a weak manure that will produce but one crop.

The Crana river passes through these lands, and turns several mills of importance to the accommodation of the country. A good stone bridge which surmounts this river, in view of the castle; as an architectural object in that prospect, contributes to the interest of the domestic scene.

The entrance to Lough Swilly is protected by batteries upon both sides; and several officers and engineers are stationed in the town and neighbourhood of Buncrana, to discharge the duties connected with their station on that coast.

The mansion-house of Buncrana (if its title of a castle has not been wholly derived from the ruin already noticed; and

that it stands, *de facto*, upon the foundations of an ancient castellated building) has been so far modernized as to leave no trace of the Gothic architecture in its external appearance. But many similar edifices, in which portions of the strong thick walls peculiar to our ancient castles, have been retained, have nevertheless been so far modernized, in roof, windows, and apartments, as to leave no visible clue to their antiquity, save certain vestiges of the old walls alone.

The town of Buncrana is the post-town to this ancient seat.

#### ROCKFORT AND THE MOUNTAINS OF INNISHOWEN.

Rockfort, the seat of the Rev. Hamilton Stewart, is a respectable feature of improvement on the property of Daniel Todd, Esq. of Buncrana Castle, the subject of our last description, and is situated within a short distance of the town of Buncrana, which is the post-town to it.

It comprehends a good mansion-house, and eighteen acres of a handsome lawn, whose base is washed by the waters of Lough Swilly. The view from hence, over the crystal surface of the Lough, to the mountains of Kilmacrennan, the village of Rathmullen at their base, and to the noble island of Inch, in the opposite direction, is calm, composing, and picturesque.

The neighbouring vallies are eminently fertile, producing with proper cultivation, good crops of barley and oats, and well adapted to the growth of plants.

Of the mineral wealth of this section of Donegal, we neither saw nor heard of any peculiar indications; nor could we learn that the Marquis of Donegal had paid any attention to the geological history of his mountains in the barony of Innishowen, or had taken the trouble of planting even a single tree there; and yet he resides at home, and has, we believe, the well merited reputation of being a liberal and indulgent landlord. But this need not surprise us, as his lordship's Antrim mountains remain also *in statu quo*, as Nature placed them; and, for any thing which the Marquis

is likely to do to the contrary, will so remain, like Sutton and Potten, until the world's rotten! Nevertheless the treasures of these mountains will yet be examined, should the country be thrown upon its own resources, and Ireland once more placed in a capacity of maintaining an honourable competition with the sister countries, in every useful art; an object very likely to be promoted, under favourable circumstances, by those respectable secondary proprietors, upon whose spirit and enterprise, the improvement of a large proportion of the barony of Innishowen appears to have now devolved.

#### THE MOUNTAIN ISLAND OF INCH.

This island is the property of Col. Chichester, and is situated in Lough Swilly, about six miles from Londonderry. We do not know what its superficial measurement may be; but from frequent observation and the best information we could collect, we may venture to hazard a conjecture that it is about six miles in circumference at its base. It is reputed to be inhabited by about 500 persons, whose families hold it in small farms of from ten to thirty acres, and maintain three places of worship there, namely, a church, a Roman Catholic chapel, and a Presbyterian meeting-house; and these sects, we believe, live happily and harmoniously together. The soil is reputed to be peculiarly good for barley; and as there is generally a liberal price for that description of grain in this proverbially whiskey country, we have no doubt that the larger proportion of the surplus corn of Inch is of this description. The island produces to its cultivators most of the necessities of life, except fuel, which they are obliged to boat across the water from the neighbourhood of Rathmelton and Buncrana.

We could perceive no wood growing there, in our various drives around the Lough, nor do we know the sort of fences by which their fields and farms are enclosed; but in reference to the influence of this mountain island upon most of the land-



scapes in the region of Lough Swilly, but particularly in the northern section of that water, it is perfectly transcendent. The island is seen rising with modest dignity above the surface of the sea, in a gradual ascent from its shores to the summit of the mountain, which is cultivated nearly to the top; and exhibiting its colossal bulk (in a nearly circular form, inclining towards a point as it ascends) in close association with the grand sheet of water, by which it is surrounded; and these united objects, bearing with irresistible effect, from their proximity to the eye, upon all the landscapes of a country rising beautifully from the shores of Lough Swilly, into proud elevations, decorated with divers handsome villas and warm farm-houses, their mystic influence upon the surrounding scenery, is not easily conceived by the eye and imagination, that have not been drawn by duty or by pleasure, within the magic circle of this eloquently silent picture.

#### COXTOWN.

Coxtown is the seat of Alexander Hamilton, Esq., and with divers other seats in this section of the county, it forms a respectable feature of improvement on the valuable and widely extended territory of the college of Dublin.

It comprehends a good mansion house and 130 Irish acres of demesne, bearing the marks of improved cultivation, exhibiting a lawn and elevated lands neatly planted, and uniting with the appearance of a little wild moor in the distance, and with a still more distant mountain outline on the north, to communicate to this scene, such a blenditure of the works of Art with the wildness of Nature, as is well calculated to give a peculiar interest to the feelings, when the mind is in a calm and heathful state.

No geological survey of these lands having been executed that we heard of, nor any search made for the indications of mineral wealth by men of science; their known interest is consequently reducible to the fertility of the soil, and to the works of artificial improvement that have been erected upon it.

Coxtown stands on the public coach road communicating

between the towns of Ballyshannon and Donegal, four miles from the latter, and six from the former, which is the post town to it.

#### DONAGHMORE GLEBE.

The whole glebe attached to the parish of Donaghmore, of which the Rev. Mr. Irving is the incumbent, contains, according to our information, 1300 Conyngham acres, of which about 200 are appended to the house in the character of a demesne, being situated within the precincts of the parish.

We believe these are College lands, and that this parish is in the gift of the College of Dublin; but, be this as it may, it is somewhat singular that 1100 acres of glebe land should be appended to a parish in which it is not situated. This however may be one of the old regulations that will undergo a change, when the property of the church and of the college come under the reforming finger of the law; an event which, according to the signs of the times, that, in all probability, is not very far distant. But whatever may be the nature of this reform, it ought not to affect the life interest of any gentleman, who, under the protection of existing law, has paid a large sum (as we hear this gentleman did) for the enjoyment of his parish. The reformers however of this branch of our system, appear to agree, that the present generation of incumbents should not be disturbed in the possession of their livings, but that the new system should commence with every succeeding incumbent; and supposing the legislature willing to adopt this plan, would it not be the interest of the clergy to receive an equivalent for their tithes, and to enter at once upon a system of peace with their parishioners?

The soil of Donaghmore is well adapted to the growth of trees and plants. The various valuable trees with which the glebe lawn is enriched and beautified, prove this. A chalybeate spring is also said to exist here, but in an evidently neglected state.

The house is a light and commodious edifice, and the church which stands within the precincts of the demesne, is no mean appendage to the beauty of the place. The River Finn forms a boundary to this property on the south, and on the east the demesne is protected by a wall of stone and lime. In this direction stands the village of Castle Finn, within about one and a half mile of the glebe house. It has a post office, and is called the post town to this seat.

The lands of Donaghmore demesne, appear to rise with a gradual ascent from the lawn and river to their highest elevation at the north; and from the summit of this lofty tract, they command a prospect of the spire of the cathedral of Derry, and a most interesting view along the vale. But what is of still more consequence, white granite, evidently capable of an exquisite polish, and that might be made to vie with the finest Italian marble, exists in this elevated land, of which we saw a striking specimen in that neighbourhood; and yet our gentry cannot be satisfied without sending to foreign nations for a similar production at a ten-fold price, while the valuable fossils that would compose the most useful and interesting ornaments of their houses, are lying dormant in their own country, and the tradesmen and labourers that would derive a subsistence from their preparation, destitute of employment and in want of bread!

#### OAKPARK.

Oakpark, the seat and property of William Wray, Esq., embraces about 400 Conyngham acres on the western bank of Lough Swilly, a part of which (an alluvial soil reclaimed from the Lough) is perhaps the best land on the whole property.\*

As these lands on the banks of Lough Swilly are so well circumstanced for trade; a mountain tract on this property (known by the name of Knockabrin) which contains strong

\* It is highly probable that some thousands of acres of land might be reclaimed from the sea at various points of Lough Swilly, by the adoption of proper measures.



indications of lead, may yet prove a valuable acquisition to the Wray family.

This seat stands on a pleasing elevation above the Lough, and commands an open view of the neighbouring country. It embraces a good mansion house and seventy-eight acres of demesne ornamentally planted; situated on a line of road which opens a communication between Letterkenny and Rathmelton, at the distance of two miles from the latter, which is the post town to it.

#### RATHMELTON.

This is a little sea port town situated on the western shore of Lough Swilly, and watered by the River Lennan, which has its source in Lake Gartan (a Lake noticed in our recent report of Rockfield) surrounded by mountain land. This river, after having watered Rathmelton, and turned an extensive flour mill, a linen bleach mill, and several corn and flax mills, in its progress from Lake Gartan to this place, pours its tributary waters into Lough Swilly in the immediate neighbourhood of the town, which, though of very limited dimensions, carries on a small trade with America and Norway, in timber, and exports corn to Liverpool and Glasgow. Small vessels of a hundred tons burthen can unlade here; and if the population of the neighbouring country had a prosperous manufacture, the trade of this little port would rapidly advance.

Rathmelton is situated on the principal estate of Sir James Stewart, Bart. whose seat and lands have been already noticed in the reports of our visit to this county; and from the liberal policy adopted by the lord of this town towards his tenantry, it will not be his fault if the town should not rapidly extend itself, as he grants leases in perpetuity of all plots for building; and as a necessary consequence the town is improving; it has many good buildings, and the houses are generally slated and look comfortable.

## BALLYBOFEY AND STRANORLAR—VILLAGE INNS.

Ballybofey and Stranorlar are two proximate villages, separated from each other by the river Finn. They are situated on the public coach road between the towns of Donegal and Letterkenny; and in a wild mountain country, not thickly inhabited, and so generally destitute of wood as is the county of Donegal, they are distinguished by certain natural and artificial advantages, which enable the comparatively animated landscape of these villages, to exercise the despotism of beauty by the force of contrast.

The soil of this district of Donegal is by no means of the first class; nor does it exhibit, so far as our information extends, any certain indications of mineral wealth. There is one respectable establishment however, in the neighbourhood of those villages, that, in a commercial point of view, deserves the particular notice of the patriot. This is the linen bleach green of Mr. Johnson, of Naveny, within a mile of Ballybofey, where about 12,000 pieces of 7-8ths wide linens are annually bleached, and disposed of in the markets of Dublin and England. In such a wild mountain district as that of Donegal, and in such a period as the present, when the linen trade is in the lowest state of depression, we derived no small gratification from the observation of one bleaching establishment (and we believe there are a few more in the county, and a few only) maintaining a respectable position on the map of this wild district, in defiance of all the calamities that have shaken the manufactures of our country to their base; and we need hardly remark, that the clean and healthful employment afforded to some of our honest and industrious countrymen by this respectable establishment, constituted no mean part of this just and pleasurable feeling.

In reference to the comparatively animated beauties of the landscape just noticed, they commence, in your progress from Donegal to Letterkenny, with the plantations of Drumboe castle, the seat of Sir Edmund Hayes, Bart., which

extend about a mile along a verdant bank, beautifully elevated above the river Finn, which forms a boundary to this demesne; and, in its wild and eccentric course through the vale beneath, exhibits to the eye, one of the most chaste and interesting objects in the scenery of the district through which it passes to the sea.

To enjoy this prospect to advantage, a better site can scarcely be selected than that of Summerhill, the prettily elevated lodge of Mr. Charles Johnston (a cottage beauty, constituting, like that of Naveny, a very interesting feature of improvement on the Marquis of Conyngham's estate.) From this favourable position, the plantations of Drumboe castle are seen uniting with those of a Mr. Stewart, (on a noble hill richly planted, and forming a conspicuous feature of dignity and beauty in all the landscapes of this neighbourhood,) as also with the river Finn (pursuing its meandering course through the vale below) with the villages on its banks; and with a valley better wooded and more thickly studded with cottages and farm houses, than is usual in this country, to complete the *tout en semble* of a scene, which, in such a county as that of Donegal, where combinations of this kind are not numerous, derives a comparatively powerful influence over the eye of observation from the force of contrast.

But with all these advantages of prospect and aspect, Ballybofey and Stranorlar, are, with few exceptions, inhabited by an apparently poor and distressed people. Each of these villages has, nevertheless, an inn for the *accommodation* of strangers; but we would recommend as many of those travellers passing through Ireland, as can command the means of establishing themselves in populous towns, never to lodge at a village inn (unless in such very well frequented districts as those of Wicklow, Armagh, and Downshire) or they may perhaps, when too late, have occasion to repent of the confidence which they had reposed in them.

The opulent public, who are not compelled by professional duty to take up their abode at houses that are not



much frequented; have but little idea of the evils that are sometimes entailed upon the constitution, by the damp beds and lodging rooms so frequently to be met with in these village habitations; although generally in what is called *the best houses of this sort*, great care is taken to conceal these evils beneath the beauties of a white counterpane, and the deceitful temporary blaze of a strong fire, introduced into the chamber upon the arrival of a stranger. And if, by a change of circumstances, the stranger happen to get rid of these deeper dangers (and of the petty frauds and impositions that sometimes accompany them, such as rotten hay and a wet bed for his horse, and half a crown for a salt herring, as a Dublin merchant once paid for this accommodation.) If, by shifting the scene, he should happen to escape from these *deeper* dangers, and alight upon a bed where consumption is not secretly lingering in the sheets and feathers; and where no ungenerous imposition is practised by the *honest* people of the house upon the stranger and his horse—in a word, where the house is less *pretending*, but more just and righteous in its dealings than the white counterpanes and blazing fires of higher rooms and prouder rank; then the traveller may have to prepare himself for the enjoyment of a new species of *luxury*, less fatal and deceitful it is true; but still not very flattering to his feelings on a winter night, after having encountered the inclemency of the weather during the whole of a cold and stormy day—such luxuries, for instance, as a plug of an old blanket stuck into the sash of his room window, as a substitute for glass; a total absence of all shutters and window curtains to dispute the entrance of the keen blast and the damp night air; an old tattered quilt that had perhaps done duty in all its various relations for half a century, thrown over the frame of his bed, as a substitute for a bed curtain; with various other little items of honest homely simplicity of a nearly similar description, that it would be ridiculous to mention, and entirely too tedious to detail.

We therefore recommend travellers of fortune to visit the

rural districts of Ireland in summer only ; to take up their abode at the best *frequented inns* (at Newrath bridge in the County of Wicklow, there was one of this description, when we visited that county fourteen or fifteen years since) and at the end of every day devoted to observation and research, by no means to stop all night in houses which they do not know, but rather return every evening (until their final departure) to the house which they have **PROVED**, and where they have had sufficient evidence of *safety* to enjoy the innocent pleasures of their tour, without being goaded by bad treatment, or suffering under a painful anticipation of future ills.

#### WOODS AND FENCES.

The reader will observe in his passage through these notes, a frequent advertence to the generally bleak appearance of this county. This proceeds not only from the extremely limited number of woods and forests existing in this wild peninsular district (the naturally bold inequality of whose surface, and whose intimate connection with the ocean, would prove eminently favourable to the grandeur of these objects) but also from the absence of quickset fences and hedge rows, which give a country a wooded appearance ; and for which dry stone walls and bald clay ditches are the general substitutes.

This state of affairs accounts for the generally bleak appearance of this peninsular (or semi-peninsular) district, in which, nevertheless, there is much natural wealth, some highly embellished seats, and even a few fine landscapes.

#### TOWN OF DONEGAL.—CONCLUSION.

From the information of mariners we learn, that small vessels only can approach this town ; but at the distance of a mile from thence, there is said to be deep water, and every other necessary natural advantage, for the accommodation of ships of any burthen. This however, or any similar advantage, cannot force the trade of Donegal beyond

the level of its consumption and demand; and this, in the circumstances of the surrounding country, must be very limited; as, with the exception of some families of fortune, (and of these we believe, two or three of the most eminent are absentees) the majority of the inhabitants are poor, and consequently are not in a capacity to consume imports; while that wealthy and substantial class of the second rank, who are the chief supports of trade in all the countries that enjoy it, appear to be few in number in the country around this town.

Since the settlement, however, of one or two spirited mercantile men in Donegal, (we believe from the neighbourhood of Belfast) the trade of this town is said to have made a very considerable progress, as the shop-keepers can now procure their goods at the best markets, and at the least possible expense; although previous to the settlement of these merchants, and the establishment of some small vessels at this port, they were obliged to purchase their goods from a superior kind of shop-keepers at second hand, subject also to the heavy expenses of package and land carriage from distant towns in their own island.

Donegal, from the circumstances of its local district, can never expect to have more than a limited trade, so long as Ireland shall remain destitute of manufactures; whereas if the existing obstacles to the trade of Ballyshannon and Enniskillen were removed, the period is not far distant (considering the rich and populous counties around Lough Erne that would consume their imports) until they would rival Belfast in manufactures and commerce, and far outstrip Derry in the march of trade and wealth. They would indeed be the Greenock and Glasgow of the North of Ireland, (as Hamilton and M'Gowan have well observed) for Nature, and other most favourable concurrent circumstances, unite to prepare them for the enjoyment of a great trade. All that is wanted to accomplish the purposes of Providence, is a little assistance from the hand of Art. We do not expect to live to see that assistance granted—but we believe that



it will be granted in a little time ; for the stake of the landed interest of Donegal and Fermanagh in this question, is too deep to be much longer trifled with. In the mean time we have laboured, in our own humble department, to do our duty ; and trusting that the landed interests of Donegal and Fermanagh will do theirs, and that Ballyshannon and Enniskillen will yet be the glory of the North-West district ; we beg the reader's indulgent attention to the foregoing specimens of that district, with which we now close our Tour ; and soliciting his favourable allowance for the numerous errors and defects to which age, infirmity, and a variety of acutely painful circumstances, have unavoidably exposed us ; we have the honour to remain, with best wishes, his very faithful, and obedient, humble servant,

THE AUTHOR.

## NATIONAL EDUCATION.

As this subject, so important in itself, and so fruitful of public disputation in a divided country, has been only noticed incidentally in the progress of this work, we wish to make a few remarks upon it, under a distinct and separate head, before we close this volume.

We are, then, decidedly of opinion, that a deep and fatal wound to the moral and literary interests of Ireland, was inflicted upon that country by the LAW, when Parliament, withdrawing its support from the system of education confided to the Society at Kildare-street, Dublin, disturbed the operations of that system, and gave birth to a rival scheme in direct opposition to it.

Before we had deeply weighed and considered this question, our anxiety to promote a kind and friendly intercourse between the children of our country, had rendered us favourable to a system of education, from which the Scriptures (as a book fruitful of controversy) should be excluded; and a reading book, furnished with moral precepts from the New Testament (to which all Christians *nominally* subscribe) substituted in its place, as a book of general instruction; leaving the clergy of the contending churches to instruct the children of their respective flocks in their chapels, and at their own houses, in those dogmas of theology which they feel to be essential to the maintenance of their respective systems, a mode, we were perfectly aware, that would meet the views of the Catholic clergy; as a school-book (however furnished with moral precepts) would not maintain that authority in the minds of Christian youth, that the New Testament would be likely to do, being received and acknowledged by the clergy of all Christian churches as the Word of God.

This (from the anxiety which we felt for the adoption of measures calculated to promote a moral amalgamation of

the people of a divided country) was our first impression—but when we had considered the subject more deeply, and found cause to suspect that a wish was entertained by laics and clergymen of the popular party to hoodwink the people, and to obtain an *ascendant* in the government of education, for purposes which we deemed to be corrupt and selfish, our opinion of this great and important subject underwent a change; and that change was confirmed and rendered final, by an attentive consideration of the impartial system adopted by the Kildare-street Board, for the government and instruction of their schools; the Catholic and English versions of the New Testament, without note or comment, being distributed by them for the accommodation of the children of the two churches; and teachers properly qualified for the instruction and management of the schools, sent down from Dublin, without reference to their religious creeds.

So long then as the Kildare-street Board of Education acted upon these impartial principles, we think it ought not to have been disturbed; more particularly as the Lancasterian system of education, which it administered, always embraced the New Testament, without note or comment, as a part and parcel of the system of instruction adopted by Joseph Lancaster in the management of his schools. And to this system, when first introduced into Ireland, the Irish public of all parties, actively or passively subscribed, as the best which could be introduced into that country, for the instruction of the poor, under existing circumstances. To disturb it, therefore, when firmly established, and doing much actual good, was, in our deliberate opinion, an act of great moral injustice to the poor of Ireland; for if the Scriptures of the New Testament be indeed a record of the will of God, a Christian Government should cause them to be read and supported; and if they are not that record, they should be rejected as an imposture; for between these extremes we can see no medium; and as to the commentaries of men, their object may be seen through at a single glance, since the duties which we owe to each other are



made so plain in the New Testament, that he who runs may read them ; and in reference to religious theories, about which the sects differ (and by which the priests of all parties live plump and happy) experience has proved that human commentaries cannot reconcile them—and since God has not thought proper to append a comment of his own to the book which he has given (reserving to himself, who is alone equal to the task, the office of enlightening the human mind upon its mysterious doctrines) the overweening solicitude of the Catholic clergy for the establishment of their own explanations of the text, may be easily accounted for ; and this alone, if there were no other reason, would convince us, that the British government acted extremely wrong when they displaced the Lancasterian system of education, that had been long established, and was doing well, in order to make room for that milk and water system of moral and literary instruction, into which the persevering clamours of the Catholic leaders of the poor of Ireland did at length cajole them.

As to the *infallibility* of those commentaries to which the Catholic clergy generally attach so much importance, this indeed may do very well for the poor of Ireland who are ignorant of the question ; but to those persons of common observation, who know that the notes and commentaries of Catholic divines upon the Sacred Volume have been so various, that the late Roman Catholic Archbishop Troy, of the diocese of Dublin, having given an incautious approbation to one of those commentaries upon an authorized version of the Catholic Bible, afterwards felt himself bound, upon a closer inspection of the notes, to recant this approbation ; a recantation for which he is said to have been menaced with a law-suit by Cumming, the Dublin bookseller, who had undertaken to print and publish the work upon the strength of the Doctor's name ; the cunning Scotch bookseller well knowing that under the protection of this name, with the odour of those black and demoniac descriptions of the Protestant Reformers, which the notes

contained, the book would have sold well in the Irish market; (for Ireland is the market for such books as this;) and no doubt had Cumming proceeded in his prosecution of the suit, he would have recovered large damages from Doctor Troy for this serious disappointment.—So much, then, for the infallibility of those *corrupt* explanations of the Word of God, which the Catholic clergy insist on as essential to a knowledge of its true meaning; and so much for the wisdom of a Protestant government in up-rooting a useful and well-established system of liberal Christian education, in deference to the clamours of an injured body of men, who, by a wise government, would, long since, by a state provision, have been rendered independent of a nefarious traffic in human credulity, and in ignorance, its inseparable attendant.

Those who have heard of the famous notes just noticed, have also, in all probability, received some account of the luminous biblical commentaries of a Catholic bishop, whose demoniac descriptions of the Protestant heretics and heresy, and his confident predictions of their approaching ruin (a work generally known in Ireland by the name of Pastorini's Prophecies) led numerous Irishmen to believe that a total overthrow of the Protestants and their religion, would take place in Ireland about three years since.—At that time a general massacre was talked of by many; but when the predicted period arrived, Mr. O'Connell, by an ingenious explanation of the prophetic figures, postponed the fulfilment of the prophecy for a year or more; and as without his approbation there can be no massacre (and he will never sanction it) the necessary consequence has been, that from that period to this, the pious and infallible prophecy of Pastorini has remained in abeyance!

So much, then, for these infallible notes, and for destroying the best system of education that was ever established in Ireland!

The cause, however, of Catholic opposition to the New Testament, without note or comment, is probably this, and

we derive our opinion of this cause from the well-known operations of nature, when forced by untoward events into a vicious circle, which its interest commands it to defend.

The Catholic clergy, and the Irish poor, were robbed of their property by the state.—From that state they received no equivalent.—In the Protestant warfare which succeeded against them, the Bible was made the religious auxiliary of the English arms.—It was a war of liberty against religious despotism, and thank God that it succeeded—but still as the Catholics were the losers in this warfare, it is not surprising that they should have a sore feeling towards the English Bible, which was played off against them with such singular success.

Our recommendation therefore to the English government is, to give an equal and impartial trial to the two systems of education, until that which is intrinsically the best for a free country, shall evidence its superiority to the other, by the superior beauty and benevolence of its fruits.

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